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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Arabia Calls For Summit on Lebanon

LD3001204390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Saudi Arabia today invited the Arab countries to hold an emergency summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Announcing this, Saudi official sources pointed out that Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri conferred this morning with Arab ambassadors accredited to Riyadh and handed them summit invitations addressed to the Arab leaders.

Tripartite Committee Issues Message

LD3001230490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri conferred at his ministry office with the Arab ambassadors, where he handed them a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, His Majesty King Hasan II, and President Chadli Bendjedid, members of the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee. The message was addressed to leaders of the Arab countries and includes the report of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee about developments in Lebanon and the views of the committee about these developments.

ACC Parliamentarians To Hold Meeting 31 Jan

JN3001133490 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 30, INA—The parliamentary committee of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member-states will hold its first meeting here on Wednesday. The ACC groups Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

Iraq's National Assembly (parliament) Speaker, Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih said representatives from the four member-states' parliaments will ratify the committee's rules of procedure. He added that among other issues to be tackled during the two-day meetings will include a plan of the committee's activities.

The MP's will also discuss issues put forward earlier by the ACC ministerial commission and the possibility of setting up specialised committees to coordinate cooperation between the council's parliaments.

During its meetings, the committee will also work for the unification of its activities and coordination of joint Arab action on international level.

Mr Salih said among the issues to be focused on at the meetings are the Iraq-Iran war in the light of the United Nations Security Council Resolution No 598, Palestinian issue and the situation in Lebanon, as well as the developments in the Arab and international arenas.

The Iraqi official added that he hoped the committee's meetings would give a boost to the ACC work as a whole.

These meetings will be preceded by meetings between ACC national committees to discuss the draft of the rules of procedure put forward by Iraq and principally ratified during the ACC summit in Sanaa.

Iraq had earlier recommended the formation of a committee to include representatives from the ACC parliaments. The committee comprises 60 members, 15 from each country.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee To Discuss Soviet Jews

JN2901163090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 29 Jan (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee will hold an emergency meeting later today to discuss the influx of Soviet Jews into the occupied Palestinian territories.

An official Palestinian source told INA today in Tunis that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the approach and strategy of the Palestinian response to halt the Jewish immigration and limit the grave damage it will cause to the Palestine question and peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian source warned against the continued influx of Soviet immigrants into occupied Palestine. This, he said, might complicate matters and cause tension, which, in turn, might open up avenues for a new war, particularly as the influx encourages the Zionist entity to maintain its intransigence toward the Palestinian people's legitimate right to repatriation and self-determination.

More on Emigration Discussion

LD3001142790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The subject of Jewish emigration to, and settlement in, occupied Palestine has stimulated a wave of dissatisfaction in the Arab world, a matter which impelled the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to hold a series of meetings in Tunis last night to discuss the issue.

The head of the PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, has pointed out that the Arab states want to open a dialogue with the Soviet Union and the East European states to stem this flood and limits its repercussions on the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Interviewed on Baker's Plan

Fatah's Salah Khalaf

*PM2301161690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
16 Jan 90 p 5*

[Telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by 'Umar Jastinyah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jastinyah] The draft U.S. document, a copy of which has reportedly been sent to Israel, implicitly agrees to the participation of certain Palestinian leaders outside the occupied territory in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Meanwhile, the Israeli Labor Party has warned that it would withdraw from the coalition government unless a decisive position is taken on the peace process. What do all these changes mean for the Palestinian cause?

[Khalaf] We have positively addressed the Baker plan, despite its ambiguity, in order not to be accused by U.S. public opinion of torpedoing Washington's efforts and to prevent the exploitation of our position by Israel and the United States to our disadvantage. Israel, however, is still obstructing the process. The attempt to oust Weizman from the coalition government was meant as a message from Shamir to Washington that "this man who contacted the Palestinians is a traitor; do not try to force us into a dialogue with the PLO."

Shamir's message to the Americans was clear, but Washington continues to give Israel guarantees. We do not recognize such guarantees. We have said we would approach the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on our own terms, which are that the PLO form and announce the delegation, the dialogue agenda be open, and that the dialogue be held under international supervision.

These are our terms and we will not stray from them. The United States is fully aware of these terms; it also knows we have offered much, very much, for peace, whereas the other side offered nothing. At any rate, we await the U.S. position, although I believe the Americans are trying to bridge the views without recognizing the terms of either side, but regrettably there is a clear American alignment with the Israeli side.

[Jastinyah] But Israel recently announced that it intends to carry out the elections unilaterally. What do you say to that?

[Khalaf] I challenge Israel to do that. We also challenge it to hold negotiations or a dialogue with any Palestinian without PLO permission or approval. We say this not because we are a dictatorship imposed on the Palestinian people, but because the Palestinian people know very well that if the PLO disappeared then all Palestinian national rights would disappear. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he would go back to the Palestine National Council [PNC] if the efforts related to Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the election process failed. Does Abu-'Ammar intend to propose an alternative future course to that adopted by the PLO after the Algiers session?

[Khalaf] The purpose of such a meeting would be to assess the situation. If the roads remained closed, as they are now, then we would have to call a PNC meeting and tell our Arab nation what has happened between us and the Americans and between us and the Israelis over this period so that the Arab nation would know who was intransigent and who tried to abort the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] What about the peace march which, it has been said, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will organize in Cairo. Will it still be staged on schedule or have there been new developments?

[Khalaf] The march as an idea is still there and is scheduled for next month, although no specific date has been set yet. Israel is trying to hinder the march, which is in defiance of the Israeli Knesset. The brothers in Egypt welcome and support the march.

[Jastinyah] While Moscow was receiving Israeli Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman, the Soviet Union announced that it was raising PLO representation in Moscow to embassy level. What does that mean to you?

[Khalaf] I believe that the Soviet step was appropriate and came at the right time in the right place. It might have something to do with raising the level of contacts with the Zionist entity, but as far as we are concerned, we see the move as a positive step, because it means practical and realistic recognition of the state of Palestine at a time when Israel is trying to jeopardize the efforts made to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This practical Soviet recognition of the Palestinian state also means that Moscow would never abandon its position on the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Do you not believe that any Soviet success in promoting a settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict could be an incentive for Washington to promote a settlement in the Middle East?

[Khalaf] I wish that would happen. We believe that if that did happen it would be a race to justice, but I do not believe there is any connection between the two. The Americans are still slow in tackling the Middle East peace process and they noticeably "pamper" Israel with all its demands and objectives, but at the same time Washington ignores all Palestinian peace initiatives and all Palestinian sacrifices for peace. At any rate, I hope your analysis is correct. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] At the time of the Israeli Cabinet crisis it seemed that Peres was afraid to escalate the crisis and go to the electorate, but 2 days ago he warned he might have to end the coalition with Shamir if the latter continued to block peace efforts. Does this mean the recent Cabinet crisis damaged the Likud's popularity?

[Khalaf] There are indications that the Labor Party's popularity is increasing. In the Histadrut elections it won 55 percent of the votes, while the Mapai won 10 percent and the Likud only 28 percent. This means that the Labor Party is more popular; its chances have improved.

I believe the current government in Israel is a government of indecision. It cannot make a decision on the establishment of peace. I believe the U.S. insistence on that government means insistence on a paralyzed government incapable of moving toward peace. I also believe the continution of the ruling coalition in its present form in Israel cannot continue and the Israeli Government is likely to fall within months. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Former PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has stated that all Palestinian factions should rejoin the PLO. In a recent press statement he said he had received no reply from the PLO. What is your comment?

[Khalaf] Let everyone know that we support any unity move that would bring all Palestinian factions together. We welcome Al-Fahum's statements and state that it is better for any faction or organization to return to the PLO than to stay away from it.

I again emphasize that the PLO has responded positively to Al-Fahum's call. We say it again: We welcome any Palestinian move to rejoin the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] In the light of what Abu-'Ammar has said, what would be the Palestinian alternative if the peace efforts came to a dead end?

[Khalaf] We have many means, but we hope we do not have to use them.

[Jastinyah] What does 1990 hold for the intifadah?

[Khalaf] The intifadah will continue with the same strength and will become even stronger. There will be other methods which will help the intifadah in forcing the enemy to opt for peace. I will not reveal these methods, but I stress we will use all means to force the enemy to respect the will of the international community, the Arab nation, and the Palestinian people. There is time for everything.

Envoy to Saudi Arabia

PM2401105490 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Jan 90 pp 32-34

[Interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, alias Abu-Shakir, "Palestine's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," with unidentified correspondent in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Current political moves concentrate on the establishment of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. What is the nature of that dialogue?

Abu-Shakir: The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is cited by several Palestinian, Arab, and international quarters, each of which understands it in a different way. The U.S. side understands the dialogue to mean the total forfeiture of the Palestinian cause to Israel and believes the dialogue should revolve around an autonomy through negotiation and consultations with Palestinian representatives from inside Palestine with a view to perpetuating the Palestinian homeland as an integral part of Israel's territory under the name "Judea and Samaria"; that is, eliminating the Palestinian people and dealing with them as Palestinians residing temporarily in Judea and Samaria. This is in addition to the elimination of Palestinian political representation and the Palestinian people's political rights. Israel wants a dialogue with Palestinian representatives from the inside, having absolutely nothing to do with the PLO, and wants to examine only the issue of elections leading to the establishment of municipal councils concerned with the social and administrative affairs of inhabitants of the towns: Sovereignty and territory are for Israel. As for the Palestinian people, the Palestinian entity, and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, they are all invalid. It is a dialogue for the sake of elections only, nothing else. And regrettably, previously we did not receive from the U.S. Administration any evidence to the contrary: It clearly supports Israel and has not moved a single step forward. Anyhow, the Fatah Central Council [as published] endorsed the establishment of that dialogue and set principles for that purpose, including adherence to the absolute right to form and announce the Palestinian delegation to that dialogue, because the PLO believes that that dialogue constitutes a preparatory step toward convening the international conference under international supervision and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members, in addition to Egypt and Sweden, and according to the national resolutions set by the Central Council, first and foremost the PLO's absolute right to represent the Palestinian people at all the stages of a settlement.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Baker's plan and his 5 points understand that?

Abu-Shakir: All that has been officially or unofficially received until now is of no help, because the United States does not recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Nor does it recognize the right to self-determination. Its plan does not acknowledge that there is a Palestinian people who have political rights, nor does it mention that the proposed elections would lead to the right to self-determination. So far the PLO is still trying to inquire from the U.S. Administration whether Baker's or anyone else's points are part of a comprehensive, complete solution leading to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination via the international conference. So far, however, the U.S. Administration has not provided a positive reply to these points; we are still waiting. And I believe we will wait for a long, long time before we reach points that at all resemble our own political program.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the nature of the Egyptian efforts, including the 10 points, and the Egyptian-Palestinian coordination in that regard?

Abu-Shakir: President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government have made major efforts in that regard. We cannot imagine that the president and the Egyptian Government would adopt a neutral position between us and the Israeli enemy. We believe they support the cause and the objective of their activities in that directions is to help the PLO achieve its aims. We cannot understand, or allow ourselves to understand, anything other than that. Undoubtedly, President Mubarak's efforts with the U.S. Administration have been known and declared for months, but until this moment I do not know whether these efforts have "budged" the U.S. Administration from its previous positions.

AL-HAWADITH: Did the U.S.-Palestinian negotiations not discuss these matters?

Abu-Shakir: Of course, the main objective of these talks is to secure recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The U.S. side, however, tries to talk about the form, not the substance. The U.S.-Palestinian negotiations have a spectacular appearance, but lack serious substance. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Despite Palestinian efforts on the African continent, the number of African states—most recently Ethiopia—restoring their relations with Israel is increasing. How can such tendencies be stopped on the African continent?

Abu-Shakir: We certainly regret these matters very much. In the past we warned the Arab states about that regrettable phenomenon. We asked them to make a move, and some kindly did so, but U.S.-Israeli influence on some outweighed the Arab influence. We still call for the drawing up of an Arab plan for extensive and continuous contacts with the African states to stop recognizing Israel. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: We have heard there are active Syrian-Palestinian contacts these days. What truth is there in this?

Abu-Shakir: True, there are Syrian-Palestinian contacts full of happy surprises. These contacts have not been interrupted in recent years. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some have said that you are Hamas' [the Islamic Resistance Movement] representative.

Abu Shakir: That was said by the editor of a Kuwaiti newspaper which I like and respect. I am surprised by that claim, which levels an accusation at a Fatah Central Committee member. Hamas has its own representatives, Fatah has its own representatives, and other organizations too have their own representatives. So why this tendentious confusion? All Palestinian organizations work to serve the cause. I openly declare I am proud to belong to Islam, in faith, idea, and—God willing—practice. I do this while being the son of Fatah. I declare also that we in Fatah coordinate continuously with Hamas in order to serve the intifadah and the Palestinian cause, something of which we are proud and which we do not deny. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah on Israeli, U.S. Peace Position

PM3001170590 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Jan 90 pp 19-20

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] Do you believe that Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo will cause a split between the two Israeli Government wings over the talks with the PLO?

[Hawatimah] While the Likud under Yitzhaq Shamir continues to adopt—under the autonomy banner—a policy of building settlements and seizing Palestinian territory with a view to plundering it and planting it with expansionist settlements as part of the Greater Israel dream, the Rabin-Peres wing agrees with Shamir over negotiations with "Palestinians" from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They are ready to accept the participation of inhabitants from East Jerusalem in these negotiations, but not under the banner of Jerusalem, rather under that of other Palestinian towns and expelled elements; that is, confining the talks once again to representatives from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and rejecting negotiations with the PLO, thus not acknowledging our people's unity.

As for the other wing, known as the "doves' wing" and led by 'Uzi Bar'am and 17 other deputies, it is calling for negotiations with the PLO on the grounds that it is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, in order to arrive at a regional compromise.

The serious option is for the Israeli Government to recognize the PLO, which enjoys widespread support among the Palestinian people as well as international recognition, including recognition from the United States which is holding an official dialogue with it. This is in addition to the need to hold talks with the PLO leadership. Prior to this, the Israeli Government, including Peres and Rabin, used to close the door to any genuine efforts aimed at arranging a meeting around the negotiating table within the framework of preparation for the international peace conference, although such talks are an inseparable part of the comprehensive peace process.

[Khashanah] So you expect the present standstill to continue?

[Hawatimah] It is the U.S. Government which is responsible for the obstruction because it still ignores the PLO's role, although the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue started 13 months ago. I see the dialogue channel has dried up completely, which is why the administration has turned to intermediary channels, namely, the Egyptian and Swedish channels. The administration must stop ignoring the PLO and return to what it started in the middle of December 1988. Much time was wasted on devoting attention to marginal issues, but when it came to serious issues, the U.S. Administration kept the PLO on the sidelines. The Israeli coalition government also shoulders the greater responsibility for obstructing all plans aimed at achieving a political settlement based on the October 1967 solution; that is, Resolution 242, between Israel and the Arab states according to the "land-for-peace" principle. It also rejected that solution under Resolution 338. Since 1974 the PLO has adopted a peace program based on a balance between Palestinian and Israeli interests; namely, the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination in an independent state, while allowing for the Arab states' right to regain their occupied territory, and the right of all the region's states to take part in peace and security arrangements and in formulating relations among the states in the region via an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] The idea of holding a meeting comprising the five frontline states is often raised within Palestinian leading circles. On what basis can such a meeting be held?

[Hawatimah] First, commitment to the resolutions adopted at the Algiers and Casablanca summits, which constitute common denominators between all parties. Second, a halt to all inter-Arab wars, and, in that regard, firm support for the al-Ta'if agreement and the need to implement to end the civil war tragedy in Lebanon. With this, all Palestinian, Arab, and international forces can concentrate on the central issue in the Middle East—the Palestinian issue—and support the intifadah in order to end the occupation. Within that vision we called for normalizing relations between the PLO, Syria, and all the Frontline States in order to revive the five-party meeting—decided by the Casablanca summit and comprising Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, which now has a president and an accord government—with a view to coordinating among ourselves a comprehensive and balanced solution, convening an international peace conference, and pushing all the Arab states toward effective Arab solidarity with these five states.

U.S. 'Silence' Over Israeli Moves Denounced

JN2701103490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1956 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: A thorough review of the developments in the region with regard to the Palestine question shows that the priority task of Labor and Likud is to quell the Palestinian people's blessed intifadah, which is approaching its 26th month with confidence, firmness, and determination, and is occupying the enemy all times and in more than one place at the same time. Labor might have marginal political proposals that are different from Likud, but both see eye-to-eye on the intifadah. We cannot forget that Rabin, one of the Labor Party leaders, launched the first public show of threat at the beginning of the intifadah. He announced he would crush the intifadah within a few hours. Neither can we forget that this terrorism, brutality, poison gas, and bullets are not Shamir's responsibility alone. In addition to the Likud leaders, the leaders of the Labor Party, particularly Yitzhaq Rabin, are responsible as well. The U.S. Government is also responsible because it supports Zionist terrorism with all overt and covert methods. In order to achieve this, the U.S. Government is not satisfied with supplying it with military materiel and terrorist weapons, but gives it (?blatant) international cover and protection. The U.S. Administration does this despite the disgrace and damage it causes to its credibility and to its commitment to its principles, which it brags about and through which it has convinced the world that it is the primary defender of human rights. [passage indistinct] We are aware that the Zionist enemy is a terrorist, usurper, and racist. We are also aware that the objective of this enemy is to annihilate the Palestinian people, and if it can, it will annihilate the entire Arab nation. Because of this, we do not hope that this enemy will go back on its criminal objectives. Our only option is to resist this enemy and shed our blood on the metal of lethal American weapons.

However, we cannot understand why consecutive U.S. Administrations harbor this hatred toward the Palestinians. With 6 vetoes, U.S. Administrations have killed 6 resolutions which the rest of the world unanimously felt the Palestinian people had the right to in 1989. The U.S. Administration continued to beat around the bush without holding a dialogue with them despite the long years of sacrifices, wounds, and pain to which they were exposed and despite the fact that the Palestinian people have always proved they exist and have clear rights, which even blind people can see.

Yes, we blame the U.S. Administration and expose its intentions, objectives, imbalances, and ignorance of every fair and responsible fact in the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli conflict. We believe the blood of every Palestinian is the responsibility of those in charge of this administration, which leans toward injustice and deception where the Palestinians are concerned. How can we explain the U.S. Administration's silence over this terrible and terrorist war against Gaza, Nabulus, Ramallah, and against every place in occupied Palestine?

We believe that Shamir, who is facing a deadlock because of his rejection of the intifadah's call for the need to accept a just and comprehensive peace, is fiercely struggling against the tide to stop the intifadah; Labor's Rabin is giving Shamir the opportunity to achieve this; and the United States is overlooking his practices so that the terrorist will have enough time.

Consequently, what is taking place against the Palestinians in the occupied territory is a comprehensive terrorist war in which thousands of Palestinians are killed or wounded and scores of thousands are detained, tortured, and their houses and property damaged.

The other madness that governs the terrorist who is covered by the U.S. Administration is his crazy dream to build settlements and bring in settlers so that the Jews will outnumber the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. This madness is faced with cautious, useless criticism on the side of the U.S. Administration, particularly as we have reached a point where all crises are used as reasons to immigrate to Israel without thinking that those escaping from the hell of dictatorial regimes, as they claim, will seek refuge in the hell of terrorism and killing [words indistinct].

We are in the age of political and ethical prostitution. However, the intifadah and this revolutionary Palestinian march place mankind—not the Palestinian individual alone—on the threshold of human hope. Not everything is measured with the criteria of interests, and not all values are for sale or plunder. Let the United States stop the killing and the racist invasion of our country.

'State of Palestine' Full Member of AAPSO

JN2801194290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The director general of the Afro-Asian consultative legal committee has announced the acceptance of the state of Palestine as a full member of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization [AAPSO]. In a letter to the Palestinian ambassador to India, the director general expressed his warm congratulations on the occasion and his firm belief in the positive and effective role played by the state of Palestine in AAPSO activities.

USSR Envoy to Tunisia Meets PLO Officials

Confers With Faruq Qaddumi

JN2601173090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Sobchenko in the PLO Political Department's office in Tunis yesterday morning. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Palestine question and recent developments in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet ambassador stressed that his friendly country's preoccupation with international and domestic problems does not prevent it from promoting solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO and that upgrading the PLO's representation to the ambassadorial level can be seen as proof of this.

Talks With PLO Tunis Envoy

JN2901211490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1928 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunis, has received the USSR ambassador to Tunisia. They reviewed the latest developments of the blessed Palestinian intifadah and the steadfastness of our Palestinian people in the face of escalating Zionist terrorism. They also reviewed developments in the peace process and the Israeli policies and schemes to thwart the process.

The USSR ambassador reaffirmed his country's firm support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, until they achieve their national rights, especially their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Egypt

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC3001170690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1631 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Tesfaye Dinka, Ethiopian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit which will last several days. He will deliver a message to President Husni Mubarak from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received him at the airport.

Upon arrival, the Ethiopian minister said he will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials on a number of issues of common concern. He emphasized that Egypt and Ethiopia are linked by historical ties.

Minister Tesfaye said his country has not embarked on any projects involving the Nile River, nor built any dams. He denied his country had discussed such projects with any party, adding that the Ethiopians are too occupied with defending their national security and achieving social and economic development to have time for large-scale projects.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed Minister Tesfaye's visit to Egypt, saying both countries are looking forward to maintaining continuous contacts. He said: I believe Egypt and Ethiopia are friends linked by old, traditional ties. Presidents Mubarak and Mengistu are on good terms and their relations will develop further in the future, he added.

Mubarak Interviewed on Badr, IMF, Other Issues

Part I

JN2201173090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 90 pp 3, 4

[First part of a two-part interview with President Husni Mubarak by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] Al-Ansari: Your Excellency Mr President. You acted promptly in response to the public mood and fired the interior minister, irrespective of whether the facts of his conduct were brought to your attention by the opposition or the majority party—despite the measured, unhurried responses you are known for. Does that usher in a new era of national action characterized by promptness?

Mubarak: The decision in question has its special circumstances. I cannot delay in making a decision I deem necessary for the public good or dealing with any transgression offending our values and norms or a deviation from the seemly language of dialogue, which all of us ought to honor—government and opposition, citizens and officials. There can be no question about that as long as the facts are clear.

As for a new phase of national action being ushered in by the decision to fire Zaki Badr—well, I have a point to make here. Political action is a matter of stages. A transgression by some minister or other and calling him to account cannot be all that crucial. This is because we have far more important issues and problems to deal with. It is how to secure livelihood for the people that preoccupies me and takes up all my time. One of the issues that has been uppermost on my mind is debt rescheduling to secure bread to the general public—something quite a few people do not realize. [passage omitted]

You ask whether my recent decision ushers in a new era. This will not be possible so long we are taking an approach that ought to change. I have been following the party newspapers that never cease name-calling. By nature, I am patient and I can take a lot. But I am shocked by improper and unseemly conduct. And yet I repeat that things will eventually straighten themselves out. But should there be no change, I wonder how things will turn out in the end.

Al-Ansari: To rephrase my question, is it fair to say that the departure of the interior minister is a prelude to some kind of limited or even extensive change?

Mubarak: What kind of change are you referring to? As far as I am concerned, change must be dictated by the public good. So long as it is in the public interest to make changes, I will not delay. I have nothing to fear from change. It advances the general good. As long as there is room for change, then changes must be made. In this respect, "change for the public good" is the guiding principle. Sometimes, there is no room for change; at other times some compelling circumstances might stand in the way of change. At yet other times, it may be that the person in question is needed. Sometimes, I am bound by certain circumstances not to make the change required. Frankly speaking, we have a good many outstanding problems. For instance, the IMF might want me us to introduce reforms. In this case, change might mess things up and take us back to square one. We would then have to restart negotiations and have our disagreements over the IMF's prosposals and demands.

Let me emphasize once more that the one yardstick I go by insofar as change is conerned is the public good. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: If you will Mr President, I will press my question over whether to expect impending dialogue between the majority party and the opposition?

Mubarak: I have nothing against this dialogue provided if it promises to be constructive. I do not want for everyone to come carrying a list of demands. Let's sit and talk about where the national interests lie. Some say: You will have to have the constitution amended or I will not enter into any dialogue. What kind of talk is that?

Al-Ansari: Let's now come to the second part of the preceding question. Is a meeting between you and opposition leaders likely soon?

Mubarak: I have no objection to such a meeting. Nor have I ever had any such reservation. But every time I decide to meet with them, I see rude things in the opposition papers. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: Mr President, you have referred to the IMF a number of times. Can you tell us what point the talks with the IMF have reached, and what the chances are for an agreement, especially since Dr Salah Hamid and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd are currently holding talks with the IMF in Washington?

Mubarak: We still have 5 points on which we disagree with the IMF. After we had reached semi-agreement in July and with only a few things that remained to be resolved, we were surprised in October or November to see extra pressures. The pressures were very difficult, and it was impossible for us to accept them and impose them on the citizens. From a purely technical and economical viewpoint, these [IMF demands] may be for the good of the economy. However, I do not want to reform the economy overnight and cause the death of the citizens in the process. Reforming the economy means providing the citizens with a good standard of living and being able to supply their needs, and not to cripple or trouble them. It is always better to give citizens a dose they can tolerate until I can gradually reach full economic reforms. Only then will we have stability and economic reform, and things can proceed without trouble.

From the moment I took office, I realized I had an economic problem ahead of me. Therefore, I called for convening the economic conference immediately after I assumed my responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: Mr President, let us go back to the 5 points of disagreement with the IMF. What are these points?

Mubarak: First, the rate of exchange. They want to raise it considerably. Raising the exchange rate means price hikes, not in large but in enormous proportions. Also, when we raise the interest rate, as they demand, prices will also rise; and the citizen who complains about the housing [shortage] these days will never be able to find a house in the future. Furthermore, there is a very important point: The private sector, which is supposed to borrow from the government and repay these loans in either hard or local currency, will never be able to repay.

We all remember that the dollar's exchange rate changed many times, and many projects faltered as a result of this. Therefore, if I agree to these increases in exchange and interest rates, I would be striking against the private sector. For more than 8 months, I have been putting enormous effort into these 2 points.

There are also other points set for us by the IMF and there is no need to discuss them now because we are still negotiating about them.

The IMF's mission is supposedly to help different countries emerge from their economic crises, but not in this way.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, have you received any positive indications from Washington as a result of the talks held there by Dr 'Abd-al-Majid, Dr Salah Hamid, and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd?

Mubarak: Yes, indeed. There is a great hope now, and ordinary citizens may not be aware of this. Probably, they do not know this, and we have to explain it to them. This is what preoccupies me 24 hours a day because these things have a direct impact on citizens.

After what I had explained to you, can you realize now how far apart we are? I am carrying all these worries, thinking about them, and not wanting to reveal what I have inside me. Meanwhile, there are people who direct insults. Most of the time I do not pause to think about these insults and those illusionary battles and their slanders. If I trouble myself with these issues and with what is written in the party papers, I would divert my attention from the main task to serve the citizens and provide basic living needs. I do not have time to waste on these subjects and illusions. Regrettably, this situation existed in the past, but I am not ready to involve myself in, or pay any attention to it any more.

Anyhow, let me go back to your question about the indications of Washington talks. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid phoned me from Washington yesterday and said there is hope that a new agreement will be reached soon.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, what is the real position of the Americans on our relationship with the IMF? Are they helping achieve a solution, or are they supporting the IMF and making it intransigent?

Mubarak: The U.S. Administration's stand is good. President Bush and Secretary of State Baker are trying to help us; and, certainly, they are capable of helping in our talks with the IMF. However, it must be clear to your readers and to everybody else that we are not doing the economic reform for them, but for Egypt. We need reform—short-term and long-term reform—for our economy. [passage omitted]

Part II

JN2301110390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Jan 90 pp 3, 4

[Second and final part of an interview with President Husni Mubarak by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] Al-Ansari: Mr President, you referred in your answer to the previous question to the role played by

President Bush and Secretary of State Baker to support our position with the IMF. How does this accord with the freezing of our cash allocation for two consecutive years, the equivalent of $115 million, and with the draft bill submitted to the U.S. Congress calling for a 5 percent reduction in aid to Egypt, Israel, and Turkey?

Mubarak: Many people are preoccupied with this issue despite the fact that it does not worry me at all. I am neither working for nor speaking of $100 million or $230 million. What actually preoccupies my mind is something of greater significance. What preoccupies me is the management and scheduling of debts, the issue of reaching an agreement with the IMF. Reaching an agreement with the IMF is reaching an agreement with the countries that cooperate with us and offer us credit facilities with which we purchase wheat and flour and the people's other needs and supplies. When that happens, things begin to move and the state of recession is brought to an end. As for the frozen amount you talk about, it is not worth mentioning. It is not correct for me to seek to secure this amount. If we have it, that will be good news; and if not, "it would not be that important." [quotation marks as published] If I did need such an amount of money, I would be able to secure it immediately. One telephone conversation with one of the brothers would immediately solve the problem if the need arose for such an amount. I might say that I would feel ashamed of asking them [the Americans] to grant me this amount. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: Mr President, we have now reached the topic of agriculture and irrigation and I would like to say that all indications are that water will cause a world crisis and that it constitutes a time bomb for the end of this decade and the turn of the new century. I believe that we are part of this problem, particularly considering the information that we hear on Israeli- Ethiopian plans on Lake Tana and the Blue Nile, a matter that poses a threat to our pan-Arab security.

Mubarak: I did not want to discuss this. I prefer to see it tackled quietly through diplomatic channels and not through the press.

At any rate, we are well aware of all the intricacies regarding this issue. It is actually being addressed in order to secure our share of the Nile waters. We are in touch with all brothers of the Nile basin. We have a full understanding on this issue. The response to our proposals and ideas in this regard has been favorable. However, it might be better if the press refrained from raising the issue, as it would spare us numerous complications. (Then the president paused for a moment and said emphatically to clarify his position:) This does not mean that we want to hide anything from the people; and nor do we seek to prevent the press from raising the issue in order to hide anything. The objective here is to protect the people's interests and waters from maneuvers and media wars. What is important is that our ties with the Nile basin states are good. We are linked to some of these states through agreements, interests, and joint enterprises.

Al-Ansari: Can we move to politics, to the Middle East conflict? Your initiatives have caused movement in the conflict and saved it from the stalemate that has plagued it. At what stage are efforts to launch a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo?

Mubarak: The contacts, consultations, and talks for holding the dialogue sessions are still under way. However, we must remember that it is the 10 points that I proposed that have revived peace efforts up to now. They were the catalyst for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative. Before saying anything about our 10 points, I would like to say that we are the ones who exerted pressure to get the U.S-Palestinian dialogue started. We made immense efforts to get this dialogue started.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, what are the major difficulties that so far continue to hinder the initiation of a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

Mubarak: As a matter of fact, we have not "yet" reached an agreement on two important points:

The first point concerns the composition of the delegations, especially the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The issue concerns the members of the delegation, the agency that will name the delegation, and whether the delegation will comprise figures from inside and outside the occupied territories or whether it will remain confined to members from inside the occupied territories.

The second issue concerns the topics to be discussed in the dialogue. Will the deliberations remain confined to the question of elections, as advocated by Israel? We say no, and reject this logic; and the United States lends extensive support to our position. Other topics must also be raised in this dialogue. Israel is asking for guarantees; and the Palestinians also have the right to obtain guarantees.

These are the issues around which the consultations revolve. We hope that we will reach an agreement on them so that the anticipated dialogue can be held. It is strange, however, that this arduous task that we have been performing to serve the Palestine question has prompted some elements to slander us excessively. The result is that one wonders whether to continue to help or to remain idle.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, has Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid informed you whether his talks in Washington have reactivated the situation or narrowed the differences, and will the tripartite meeting between 'Abd-al-Majid, Baker, and Arens be held next month as has been reported?

Mubarak: Dr 'Abd-al-Majid told me that James Baker's position is positive, and that he discussed with him all the aforementioned issues. However, the talks have not yet been concluded, and they will resume tomorrow. Regarding the tripartite meeting betweem 'Abd-al-Majid, Baker, and Arens, I hope it will be held. However, I will not be certain until I see that the meeting has been convened and that the talks are about to end in a manner that would give hope for starting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. James Baker said he would not give up on the peace process until we reach a solution. I told Israel that peace is precious and vital for peoples, whether Israelis or Arabs. This peace deserves sacrifices by all parties and concessions by both parties.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, relations have been restored with Syria, and thus, the last page of Arab estrangement has been turned. Why have you not yet visited Syria, especially since you have set a precedent in visiting every Arab capital that restored its relations with Cairo?

Mubarak: We have not yet agreed on a final date for the visit. Actually, I was scheduled to visit Syria, but the visit has been delayed because I had influenza, and because of visits to Cairo by some Arab leaders. As you said, I will go to Damascus. I have no problem with being the first to visit as long as relations have been restored. There are no differences between Syria and us. We are Arabs who are bound by brotherhood. I know President Hafiz al-Asad well. When he and late President Anwar al-Sadat had differences, I was the one to mediate between them and reconcile them. When I used to go to Damascus to meet with President al-Asad, our meetings would last from 1900 until 0200 in the morning, and our shortest meeting was no less than 5 hours, because he is a man who likes to stay up late.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, considering your personal relationship with President Saddam Husayn and your old relationship with President Hafiz al-Asad, and after differences between Egypt and all Arab states have been settled, can we expect President Mubarak to play a role in clearing the atmosphere between the two presidents and the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Syria?

Mubarak: Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad are dear brothers. We all are part of the great Arab nation. I will do my utmost to reconcile them. I am aware of the deep differences between them, which were created and became deeper and deeper during the Iraq-Iran war—but we should not give in. If we cannot tackle everything at the beginning, that should not prevent us from continuing our efforts to narrow the differences and to end the media campaigns. The suspension of media campaigns will help us make progress in clearing the atmosphere. I would like to reveal an important fact here; namely that I am not the only one playing this role between the two brothers, for several other Arab states are moving in the same direction. We coordinate with these states. Among them are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others. There is full cooperation and coordination between us on this issue.

Al-Ansari: The Egyptians have rejoiced over the restoration of ties with all Arab states. They also welcomed the restoration of ties with Libya. However, the following big question lurks in the back of their minds: How is it that there is such understanding, cooperation, and affection with Libya and its leader, given the fact that we used to think a restoration of even "chilly ties" was impossible? However, the surprise has taken place.

Mubarak: In brief, you mentioned the end result in your question. At any rate, Libya is an Arab state and its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is an Arab leader. I held one, two, and three rounds of talks with him. I found him very understanding. We spoke to one another very frankly. Since our meeting in Casablanca during the extraordinary summit and continuing up to now, there has been a great understanding between us in the interest of the two countries. His favorable response encouraged me. Similarly, my favorable response encouraged him. It is in our interest to cooperate in every sphere. We should not forget that Libyan and Egyptian families are intermingled. Many Egyptian families have their origin in Libya and vice versa.

Al-Ansari: Mr President, Cairo has received a number of Arab leaders, particularly Arabian Gulf leaders who recently visited Egypt at your invitation. The question raised by many people is: What is the outcome of these visits and meetings in terms of cooperation, investment, and projects?

Mubarak: Almost all Gulf states have entered into numerous joint projects with Egypt. Arab investments in Egypt are increasing. Projects are being launched and production at these projects has begun. These projects provide jobs to the jobless. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: Mr President, I am sorry for persisting in my questions in the same area. There are reports that meetings are being held to embark on a tripartite unity project involving Egypt, Libya, and Sudan—countries that share a geographic and demographic continuity. Are these reports true?

Mubarak: On the subject of unity, or merger as it is called, I would like to tell you in all frankness that this merger or complete unity idea involving a single prime minister and a single government has become outmoded. Experience has taught us that the actions that come from above, "the unity that comes from above," the unity that is imposed from above, is fragile, weak, and shortlived. Intensive cooperation and integration is more powerful than any unity that one might conceive. Cooperation among peoples makes them one people. [passage omitted]

Al-Ansari: Mr President, I would like to ask my last question. You have referred to a remarkable fact characterizing Egyptian policy in international relations. You have said that Egypt's ties with the entire world are, for the first time in history, excellent. Now that you have visited most influential world capitals, will you visit Moscow and Beijing?

Mubarak: As a matter of fact, I will visit the USSR, perhaps in March, if the situation is suitable. If this visit takes place, I will go from the USSR to Beijing.

Daily on Negotiations With IMF, World Bank

NC2701115590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—The Al-JUMHURIYAH newspaper writes in today's issue that the Egyptian Government is currently working on a comprehensive memorandum to be sent to the World Bank in response to the queries the bank had raised on the implementation of the economic reform program in Egypt. The final touches will be put to the memorandum in the next few days, after which the memorandum will be forwarded to the bank, the paper adds.

Following the dispatch to Washington of the memorandum containing the Egyptian answers to the bank's questions, a World Bank team will arrive in Cairo on 6 February on a 2-week visit during which it will negotiate with officials in the various Egyptian economic sectors, particularly agriculture, industry, tourism, electricity, and others. After the return of the World Bank's team to Washington, an IMF delegation will arrive in Cairo in March to begin talks on the general principles and outlines of the memorandum of understanding, on the basis of which an agreement for debt rescheduling could be concluded by the Paris Club. The agreement will signal the start of new arrangements between Egypt and the creditor countries, the paper adds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that during its talks in Washington the Egyptian team, comprising Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Salah Hamid, and 'Atif 'Ubayd, reached an agreement on the general principles that will govern the final agreement to be concluded with the IMF. The most important of these are:

The IMF does not object to President Mubarak's insistence on the principle that the economic reforms must not affect the low-income brackets and that the interests of this important segment must be taken into consideration in the reform program. The IMF backs President Mubarak's viewpoint in full. The paper adds that, based on the preceding principle, the application of the program will be gradual and in stages, in order to safeguard the interests of the low-income people, provided the reform program is comprehensive.

—The reform program must be integrated, because economic reforms can work only if they are integrated.

—Talks between Egypt and the IMF, which recently resumed in Washington, must continue.

—The measures intended to be adopted in each sector must be specified in detail, and not in general terms, in accordance with the agreed upon in the reform program.

The paper notes that the creditor countries that have the biggest share in the IMF and the final say in any decision support Egypt and are fully prepared to assist it, provided that this is done in accordance with the proposed program and provided the general picture of economic reform is clear.

'Diplomatic Sources' Discuss Tripartite Meeting

PM2401142290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 90 p 2

[By Muhammad Sadiq: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Egypt's Participation in Tripartite Meeting Depends on Existence of Conditions for Success'"]

[Excerpts] Washington, News Agencies—Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed cautious optimism about the possibility of the success of current endeavors to convene a tripartite meeting in Washington—leading to the initiation of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue—including him, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. [passage omitted]

An informed Egyptian source has described to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the consultations and meetings held over the course of 3 days as "useful and good." The source also said: "There is common ground, despite the continued disagreement over several issues; most importantly over the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the Israelis and the agenda for that dialogue."

The source said: These two issues are still under discussion, and extensive contacts and consultations between the parties will continue in order to discuss and resolve the points of disagreement.

The source emphasized that "despite the statements and published reports that it may announce the abandonment of its role or cease its interest in the peace process, the United States—and in particular Secretary Baker—is determined to continue its efforts."

The source added: U.S. efforts are being exerted to realize that meeting, to initiate the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and to break the deadlock, major efforts which we hope will be continued.

The source pointed out that "the first phase in the efforts to boost the peace process—that is, Israel's and the PLO's acceptance of Baker's points—has ended. A new phase has begun—one which is witnessing extensive efforts to prepare for the tripartite ministerial meeting in Washington and for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue."

The source said: We Egyptians and Palestinians know what we want, we have a clear vision, and know where we are going. We confer with the PLO very openly. We want a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo acceptable to the Palestinians. We are working for it and so is the United States.

Asked whether the PLO is required to offer further concessions, the source said: "We are continuing our extensive consultations." But other sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has offered all it can and that its position is clear. If anyone were to ask the PLO to offer something new, he would be asking it to abolish itself.This is strongly rejected and absolutely unacceptable. And Egypt did not, and will not, accept that.

The Egyptian source stressed this differently when he said: We do not make moves on our own. We consult and coordinate with the PLO. Egypt forces nothing on the PLO and would not accept that.

Summing up the situation, the source said that he was "neither pessimistic nor optimistic." He emphasized that "Egypt would not attend the tripartite meeting expected to be held in Washington unless conditions for success exist."

The source added: The disputed issues between the parties—a solution which would constitute a real break in the present deadlock—require contacts and consultations with the parties, which we are conducting, and will continue. We sensed the Americans' eagerness to continue these contacts and consultations. [passage omitted]

AL-BATRUL Editor on U.S.-Arab Oil Option

NC3001104090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 30 Jan 90

[From the "Listeners Questions" program]

[Text] Listener Walid Fawzi from al-Fayyum asks: There have been reports that the United States intends to take an option on Arabian Gulf oil. What does this mean and how will it affect OPEC?

Layla Hamid Abu-al-'Ata, deputy chief editor of AL-BATRUL magazine, answers:

[Begin recording] As U.S. dependence on oil imports increases, U.S. officials believe that guaranteeing national security in the energy field requires an increase in strategic oil reserves from the current 570 million barrels to a billion barrels by the year 2000. Naturally this increase can come from imports; however, reaching this objective requires appropriating $15 billion between now and 2000.

To avoid paying such a huge sum to oil-producing countries, Washington proposed to some major oil-producing and exporting Arabian Gulf countries that it would take an option on Arab oil in return for an agreed-upon remuneration that would certainly be much lower than the market price.

It is known that the Arabian Gulf oil-producing group forms a strong bloc that influences OPEC policy. The area has huge petroleum reserves, some of which can last for approximately 100 years.

This proposal suits the United States because the United States is able to avoid paying the full price for imported oil, but it is not good for the OPEC states. Indeed it risks new disagreements among the member states and a new race to increase output, which would certainly lead to a drop in prices.

This idea is a trap to seize OPEC oil, and it comes after recent signs that the international oil market is shifting in favor of exporting countries. During the 1990's, international demand for petroleum and for OPEC oil will increase, leading to a gradual price increase. Again, it will become a seller's market instead of a buyer's market.

There is no surer way to rob OPEC's hard-earned gains and push it backward again than this U.S. proposal. The U.S. proposal to take an option on Arab oil means natural wealth will be squandered by transferring it to U.S. reserves in return for minimal remuneration. [end recording]

Iran Reportedly Seeks Agricultural Cooperation

NC2401140490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—The Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its desire to establish cooperation with Egypt in the agricultural sphere. This was stated today by Dr 'Adil al-Biltaji, first under secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and Egypt's representative to the World Food Council.

Dr al-Biltaji said the Iranian representative to the World Food Organization [WFO], Parfis Karpas [name and title as received], expressed his country's wish to establish cooperation with Egypt in several agricultural fields during a meeting with Dr al-Biltaji on the sidelines of consultations among African and Asian countries.

According to Dr al-Biltaji, the desired fields of cooperation include the optimal use of water resources and pastures irrigated by salt water as part of broader cooperation between Egypt and Iran in various fields.

Karpas attended the regional consultations which concluded in Cairo today.

It is worth noting that Iran was represented at the meetings of the WFO ministerial panel held in Cairo last May.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With EC Ambassadors

NC2701144290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today called on the EC countries to support Egypt's efforts to stimulate the peace process and find a just solution to the Palestinian issue. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid also underscored the need to consolidate the Arab-European dialogue. This came at a meeting which Dr 'Abd-al-Majid held this morning with the EC countries' ambassadors to Egypt.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that he discussed with the EC ministers the outcome of the consultations Egypt held last week with the aim of accelerating the peace process. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid also discussed the Arab-European dialogue with the ambassadors in advance of the meeting of the general committee on dialogue which will be held in Ireland in May.

The Irish ambassador, whose country currently chairs the EC, said that the EC countries follow the situation in the Middle East with interest and that developments in the Middle East are as significant to the EC as those in Eastern Europe. He stressed that cooperation between the EC and the Middle East countries, particularly Egypt, will not be affected by the cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe. The ambassador said that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid spoke about his visit to Washington, Egypt's efforts for Middle East peace, and the exchanges between Egypt and the IMF. The ambassador said that the EC supports Egypt in its efforts to reform its economy.

Police Officer Injured by Molotov Cocktail

NC3001142790 Cairo MENA in English 1328 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 30 (MENA)—A police officer was slightly injured in 'Ayn Shams district of Cairo today, when unidentified persons hurled a Molotov cocktail at his car. The driver was also slightly injured.

The injured officer and the driver were taken to hospital where they received first aid and then later left the hospital. The officer, Lieutenent Colonel Rif'at 'Abd-al-Rahman Shafi'i, reported to his work at 'Ayn Shams police station.

Sudan

Juba Authorities 'Approve' Expatriates' Evacution

EA3001134590 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] We have just received (?the news) that the responsible military source has announced that the authorities in Juba town are allowed to give approval to any airplane desiring to evacuate the expatriates working there, provided that such planes come to Khartoum to complete the procedures of evacuation of those workers from the country if they so wish. The source disclosed that 14 of the workers of the international voluntary organizations had left Juba town for Nairobi by Sudan Air flight of today. He said the director of the UN office in Juba has actually arrived (?in) Khartoum at his request while a number of foreign workers in a number of organizations prefer to stay in the town beside the Sudanese compatriots.

On the other hand, 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information and the government official spokesman, has stated that the shelling of Juba town does not mean absolutely the realization of a military victory, but that it is only killing of the innocent population in the town. He assured that the introduction of bombardment by the rebels reveals that there is a great foreign military support to the rebels.

Juba-Yei Road Allegedly 'Cleared of Rebels'

EA3001091890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jan 90

[From the "news headlines"]

[Text] Our Armed Forces have cleared the Juba-Yei road of rebels, inflicting heavy losses on them.

Government To Allow Operation Lifeline To Resume

Supplies Sent to South

AB2601092890 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 25 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In a surprise move, the government of General al-Bashir in Sudan has decided to allow a resumption of aid supplies to be airlifted to the war and famine zones of southern Sudan. Flights were suspended late last year when the war in the south against SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels blazed up again. And the move comes at a time when the SPLA is claiming considerable successes with the regional capital, Juba, virtually under siege, running out of food, and still reeling from the bombardment at the weekend. On the government's decision to resume relief flights, Alfred Taban telexed this report from Khartoum.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The minister of culture and information, 'Ali Shummu, said yesterday that government had authorized the airlifting of 5,000 tonnes of food supplies donated by the European Economic Community from Nairobi to Juba. He said the government had also given the International Committee of the Red Cross permission to airlift relief supplies to Juba and areas presently under the control of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army. He also said that preparations were under way to move a train load of sorghum from Muglad in southern Kurdufan to Uwayl in Bahr al Ghazal region. This train, he said, would fly a United Nations flag and will discharge part of its cargo in areas where the rebels are in control.

He said the government had been forced to halt the relief operation of Lifeline Sudan because the SPLA had violated the cease-fire. They had done so by capturing Kurmuk and attacking Rumbek. However, he warned relief agencies not to smuggle arms through to the SPLA as some of them had allegedly been doing.

Meanwhile, the head of the ruling military council, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has said his government will continue the search for peace in southern Sudan, but will never succumb to terms dictated by the SPLA. [end recording]

Minister on 'Second Phase'

EA2601184290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Mr Peter Urath Ador, minister of relief and migrant affairs, announced in a news statement today that the Ministry of Relief sent (?1,000) tonnes of sorghum recently to Juba, and there is work in progress to send another 1,000 tonnes. He added that the central government had allowed the European Community to transport 5,000 tonnes of sorghum to Juba from Nairobi.

Meanwhile, the minister of relief and migrant affairs noted that preparation is underway for the donors' conference, which will be held in Khartoum at the end of February.

He added that the second phase of Operation Lifeline will include the areas affected by the war in the south, areas affected by drought and desertification in [words indistinct] and Darfur, in addition to migrants present in the northern regions. He clarified that the programs will concentrate on development and rehabilitation in the areas affected by the war.

The relief minister pointed out that the second phase of Operation Lifeline will be under the government's supervision. He said a new Nile passage will be opened from Kosti to Juba to transport the relief, in addition to making use of the railway line from Khartoum to Wau.

Government Appeals for Aid to Ethiopia

AB2801084290 Paris AFP in French 1323 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jan (AFP)—Sudan today appealed to the international community to increase and accelerate humanitarian aid to the famine-stricken regions in Ethiopia in order to reduce the influx of refugees into Sudan. In a news statement, Sudan's commissioner for refugees, General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siral Khatim, suggested the launching of an operation to aid the Ethiopian population, similar to the one organized by the United Nations in southern Sudan known as Lifeline Sudan [preceeding two words in English].

He said his country would authorize the passage of this aid through its territory. Gen Khatim stated that about 5,800 Ethiopian refugees have arrived in the Kassala and Safawa regions in eastern Sudan in the past 3 months, fleeing the fighting and famine.

He stressed that his country can no longer receive refugees, emphasizing that international assistance to refugees was reduced by 30.8 percent in 1989 and could be reduced by 20 percent more this year. Gen Khatim pointed out that the situation was worsening, as a certain number of organizations offering health services at refugee camps in Sudan expressed the wish to suspend their activities for financial reasons. According to the commissioner, Sudan presently receives more than 1 million refugees, made up mainly of Ethiopians, but there are also Chadians, Ugandians, and Zairians.

More on Relief Supplies

EA2901175590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 29 (SUNA)—Refugee Commissioner Brigadier Rtd 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim has expressed Sudan's readiness to allow the passage of relief supplies via its territories to Ethiopia for containing famine there.

In a statement to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" published today Sirr al-Khatim expressed hope that the contracts now under way by some organizations with the Ethiopian Government to pass relief stuffs to the famine-hit regions particularly adjoining Sudan's borders would come up with success.

He pointed out that a number of countries and world organizations have positively responded to the initiative launched by Sudan to the international community to contain the famine in Ethiopia.

BBC Reports on UN Evacuation From Juba Denied

UN Official's Statement

EA2501183890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 January (SUNA)—The head of the Khartoum UN Information Bureau, Mr 'Abd-al-Hadi Tawrun, has denied the news reported by the BBC about the situation in Juba, for which the corporation had claimed its sources were UN relief workers. This was stated at the meeting between teacher 'Ali Shummu, minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman, and Mr 'Abd-al-Hadi Tawrun in the former's office this morning.

The top official, who heads the UN's Information Bureau in Khartoum, stated that what was reported by London radio by no means represents the UN view. He stressed that it was only the UN official spokesman or the head of the UN Information Bureau in Khartoum who was so authorized. [passage omitted]

Daily Says BBC Lost 'Credibility'

EA2701085790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH [ARMED FORCES] newspaper has highlighted in its editorial the conspiratorial circles of the British Radio. It said:

In recent times the BBC has developed the habit of painting the news from Sudan in color and then putting it in a form which suits the goals of Sudan's enemies, regardless of the sanctity of the news or the rules of the profession. This has made it lose most of its credibility and seriousness in the minds of its listeners, particularly in Sudan and the Middle East. AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH went on to say that some Western media circles, those which ferociously (?stand) against any positive and logical stance in the country, have made it their habit to (?lay down their gloves) and report shamelessly from that hired radio incidents and news which have no link with reality. Moreover, they tend to approve the news which has no basis in logic or fact. They do that within a circle of closely linked rings with identical steps, in the service of the people who are full of hatred and deep ill-will, and those who wait for disaster to fall on the homeland and its people.

The newspaper at the end of the editorial pointed to the meeting which took place yesterday between the minister of culture and information and the head of the UN information bureau, during which the UN official stressed that what the BBC had reported quoting UN workers in Khartoum did not express his own view. In conclusion, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH said that we in Sudan do not ask that radio to stand on our side as much as we expect it to be truthful in the news and commentaries it reports. That would be enough.

'Source' Says BBC in 'Complicity' With Rebels

EA3001220790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible source has said that the news which the BBC is accustomed to circulate quoting the rebels' radio regarding the so-called siege of Juba, reveals clearly the BBC's complicity and bias towards the rebels and the outlaws. While the BBC claims that it is always on the side of legitimacy and that it is against terrorism, it is obvious and clearly understood by the whole world that the rebels are practising terrorism against innocent citizens, and are devastating utilities and hospitals, as occurred when they shelled Juba at random, which they acknowledged themselves last week.

The source added that the BBC dissemination of such news is regarded by us as giving support to terrorism and the terrorists, which the BBC claims to be fighting. At a time when the Sudanese Government is maintaining the peace option and is calling for a solution to the southern problem through negotiation and peaceful means, we find that the BBC ignores the government's drive towards a peaceful solution, and embarks on disseminating the rebels' and outlaws' lies. The source went on to say: We know the BBC's real intention in disseminating the rebels' lies, and its neglect of the government's news and its call to peace.

The source affirmed that this media propaganda was preconceived. Since the rebellion of the Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal's (?politicians) has completely waned, the outlaws have embarked on launching acts of destruction in western Equatoria, aiming at propaganda gains, but the reality is that the Armed Forces are in full control and they have the initiative.

Kuwait

Prime Minister, Afghan Rebel Leader Hold Talks

LD3001143190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1245 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 30 (KUNA)—Head of the Afghan Mujahidin interim government 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf here this afternoon held a round of talks with Deputy Premier and Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

The talks were attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sa'ud M. al-'Usaymi, Acting Foreign Undersecretary Faysal S. al-Mutawah and other Kuwaiti senior officials in addition to the Afghan delegation.

Following the meeting, Sayyaf told reporters that the Mujahidin have now excluded the dialogue with the government as means for solving the Afghani problem. "Our point of view is that an internal dialogue is not the road for a viable and feasible solution," expressed Sayyaf who arrived here yesterday heading a delegation comprising three ministers in his government.

"The appropriate solution," he told reporters, "is to stop foreign support to the Kabul government," noting that his government enjoys a wide support from the Afghan people and should be supported by countries in the world.

Saudi Arabia, from where Sayyaf arrived here, is one of the very few countries recognizing the interim government.

Sayyaf said the talks with the Kuwaiti top diplomat was "beneficial and dealt with all questions pertinent to Afghani internal political situation."

PDRY

Paper Notes Political Detainees' Release

NC3101085890 Cairo MENA in English 0812 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 31 (MENA)—"AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper reported today that the next 24 hours will witness the release of all political detainees in South Yemen as well as those serving prison sentences for being involved in the 1986 events in the country. The paper said, quoting authoritative sources in Aden, that a resolution in this respect will be issued at the close of the meetings of the presidium of the Supreme People's Council in Aden including the names of those to be released.

The sources said the amnesty decision comprises thirty loyalists to former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who were presently serving sentences ranging from five to fifteen years imprisonment, besides political detainees from prohibited political organisations.

Yemeni News Agencies Agree on Joint Bulletins

EA0801195590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The ADEN NEWS AGENCY and SABA' [N. Yemeni] news agency have agreed to produce unified news bulletins for the Yemeni homeland. They will be transmitted abroad through available foreign communications channels. They also agreed to broaden the scope of domestic news and distribute it to the public's information organs in the two parts.

This agreement was completed during a meeting this morning between Ahmad al-Hubayshi, director-general of ANA, and Yahya al-Shawqani, director-general of SABA'. They discussed ways of strengthening the joint information and technical work between the two agencies within the unified atmosphere surrounding the homeland and the spirit of the historic Aden Agreement, and implementation of the joint resolutions of the education, culture, and information committees.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Talks With U.S. Media About Issues

JN3001190390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Dallas, Texas, yesterday as part of his visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

The brother president leader and secretary general met yesterday morning with journalists in San Francisco and answered questions about domestic, Arab, and international developments, as well as investments in our country.

Asked to assess his visit, the brother president leader explained it had been successful and had provided him an opportunity to become familiar with American society.

Concerning his talks with U.S. Administration officials, the president said: The talks were good on both bilateral and international issues. The brother president said: I have found genuine understanding from the U.S. Administration on the issues discussed.

Asked about unity steps taken and how two different political systems can be unified, the brother president leader declared: The difference no longer exists after the 30 November 1989 agreement; unity is the basis of [word indistinct] and there is no going back on it. The preparations are there, and the intentions of the two sides are genuine, too. The Aden agreement ended all differences that existed between the two political systems; the unity state's constitution also acknowledges this. The brother president leader explained the constitution now is being referred to the two legislative bodies, and its formulation has taken long. The constitution is based on common denominators and removing all past differences. [passage omitted]

Asked whether economic benefits have been obtained from this visit, the brother president leader said: Various political and economic issues were discussed. We informed the U.S. Administration of the channels of investment in the two parts of Yemen. I met with some businessmen, and we briefed them on available investment opportunities, including those the new investment law secures. [passage omitted]

The brother president leader told reporters: Your questions have concentrated on limited topics, and you did not deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said: I believe there is continuing Israeli intransigence concerning peace, as well as a resolve to not abide by international resolutions intended to find permanent peace in the Middle East. The brother president added: The U.S. press, which is free and always upholds the banner of human rights, should seek to defend the human rights of Arabs in occupied Palestine and promote peace in the Gulf region. The United States and the West in general have interests that only can be realized through entrenching peace and stability in the region. The president noted: The PLO has put forth initiatives and offered concessions as no other party has done for the sake of peace. I want to see the American press speaking about Arab human rights in an unbiased and humanitarian manner. [passage omitted]

Asked how religious extremism and social changes are being dealt with, the brother president leader stressed neither rightist nor leftist extremism exists among the Yemeni people; the majority of the Yemeni people are for moderation, and we have no problem regarding this.

Romanian National Economy Minister Here for Talks

JN2901200290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy, and his delegation arrived today in Baghdad on a visit to Iraq. Stanculescu will head the Romanian side to meetings of the joint Iraqi-Romanian economic committee, scheduled to begin tomorrow.

In statements to INA, the Romanian minister expressed joy at visiting Iraq. He said he carries greetings from the head of the Romanian National Salvation Front to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

Confers With Hammadi

JN3001130590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy and head of the Romanian side to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Romanian committee, which began its meetings today in Baghdad. Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings, attended.

During the meeting they reviewed Iraqi-Romanian economic ties and means to strengthen them.

Joint Committee Convenes

JN3001150290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—The joint Iraqi-Romanian committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation opened here today. The Iraqis are led by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and the Romanians by National Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu.

The planning minister reviewed the nature of economic, trade, and technical relations between the two countries, stressing Iraq's desire to expand the scope of future cooperation in various trade and economic activities.

The Romanian minister said his country also wants to promote and expand bilateral relations in various areas to serve the two friendly countries' interests and strengthen relations.

During the meeting two technical subcommittees were created. The first subcommittee will discuss economic, trade, and technical cooperation; the second will discuss financial affairs.

The Iraqis are: Ghassan 'Abdallah Radwan, under secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and deputy head of the Iraqi side, and representatives of the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Central Bank, and the al-Rafidayn Bank.

The Romanian side comprises the deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation and deputy head of the Romanian delegation, and representatives of the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Industrial Construction, as well as industrial and trade companies.

Meets Planning Minister

JN3001130890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj today received Victor Stanculescu, Romanian national trade minister, and his accompanying delegation. They reviewed economic and technical ties between the two countries and means to improve them.

Gives Iliescu Message to Saddam

JN3001203290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Ion Iliescu, chairman of the Romanian National Salvation Front, dealing with relations between Iraq and Romania. The message was conveyed to President leader Saddam Husayn by Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy, who the president received this evening. Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Jordan's 'Arar Arrives, Praises Saddam Initiative

JN3001173590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian House of Representatives speaker, has said the peace initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn in the historic speech he delivered on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army did not surprise him, because his excellency in the past had launched several positive, honest initiatives to achieve peace.

In a statement to INA following his arrival in Baghdad today, he expressed hope the Iranian regime would understand this initiative, especially since it came from a victorious leader supported by the masses. 'Arar is heading a delegation to the first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] parliamentary committee, convening tomorrow in Baghdad. 'Arar also stressed the Jordanian parliamentarians' appreciation for this generous initiative.

The Jordanian delegation was received at the airport by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Says 'Abundant' Reserves Discovered

JN3001140090 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 30, INA—Mr 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, minister of oil announced that Iraq's oil reserves exceeds the announced number of 100 billion barrels according to prospection studies completed in 1987.

In a statement to the Baghdad ALIF-BA' weekly appearing here tomorrow, Mr Jalabi said that new discoveries carried out by Iraqi seismic teams proved the existence of abundant quantities of oil reserves in Iraq. He added that those discovrries also proved that these reserves could increase by new prospection in deep oil deposits areas.

The Iraqi oil minister pointed out that Iraq despite the existence of its huge oil reserves was committed to its production quota of 3.14 million b/d fixed by the agreement of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He stressed that Iraq at present is capable of exporting five million b/d and that Iraqi oil currently flows through three major pipelines across Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the Arab Gulf.

He said that export capacity of Iraq following the operation of the oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia provided big flexibility in exporting oil derivatives in comparison with previous years during the Iraq-Iran war.

Shamir Says No Compromise in Central Committee

TA3001175490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpts] The explicit remarks by Yitzhaq Shamir tonight have ruled out a possible compromise—at least for now. After reiterating his pronouncement he will draw appropriate conclusions if he fails to obtain the Likud Central Committee's support, the prime minister said he must feel the party sides with him—particularly now. I will propose to the Central Committee only one vote be conducted: pro or con. The results must be unequivocal beyond any doubt. In the last Central Committee convention, I wanted to show there are no ideological differences of opinion; some people took advantage of my remarks to misinterpret my move. We will see to it this mishap does not repeat itself in the upcoming convention, Shamir said, referring to the compromise achieved at the last moment before the previous Central Committee session. He does not intend such a compromise this time. [passage omitted]

The question remains: How will the Likud decide on the Central Committee's agenda? Sources in the Shamir-Arens camp said it is inconceivable one man should determine the agenda—referring to Sharon, Central Committee chairman.

The possibility of raising the issue before the party secretariat, where Arens' camp has a decisive majority, has been mentioned.

[Another report on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT states "this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon held a private meeting to decide the final details in preparing the Likud Central Committee convention. The two were unable, however, to agree on anything except the fact the Central Committee will convene next Wednesday afternoon."]

Defense Suspends Deportation of Illegal Residents

TA3101093590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The defense establishment for now has suspended deportation of territory residents without permits and those illegally living there.

It was learned yesterday the United States has expressed concern over these deportations. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the defense minister notified Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, who had submitted a motion to the Knesset's agenda against separation of families, that no residents will be deported without explicit approval of the coordinator of government activities in the territories. It now has been decided to suspend all deportations.

Rabin: Palestinian Leaders Not Affecting Clashes

TA3001153090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes the Palestinian leaders in the territories exert no influence on activities and the violence level there. More than half the Palestinian fatalities in the last 3 months were victims of internecine terror.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports Minister Rabin, who addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said the defense establishment estimates that in the 3d year of the intifadah the Palestinians will court Israeli public opinion. The defense minister also estimated U.S. aid to Israel will not be reduced, and strategic cooperation between the two countries will not suffer.

Egypt To Deliver Palestinian Response to U.S.

TA3001162290 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Jan 90 p 1

[Exclusive to AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Cairo—An informed Palestinian source stated PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's talks with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials in Cairo centered on forming the Palestinian response to all points discussed by the Egyptian and U.S. foreign ministers on one hand, and Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres on the other.

This source explained the Palestinian response will be relayed to the U.S. Administration within the next few days.

The Palestinian source added this response will stress in no uncertain terms the firm Palestinian position on the necessity of the PLO's forming a Palestinian delegation and announcing the names of its members. Moreover, this delegation should include Palestinian deportees and Arab residents of Jerusalem.

The source also affirmed the Palestinian response will include the PLO's insistence that the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue be open.

It has been learned Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid personally will deliver the Palestinian response to the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

Peres Links 'Fate' of Budget With Immigration

TA3001130090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres declared that the fate of the NIS [new Israeli shekels] 64 billion state budget he tabled in the Knesset yesterday would "be determined by the scope of immigration."

Its opponents termed the 1990-1991 budget anti-egalitarian, incomplete and discriminatory toward religious Jews.

Peres stressed from the start of his budget speech that the national economy in the coming decade would be shaped not only by immigration, but also by peace or its absence.

The country's outlay on security, including debt repayment, eats up close to 60 per cent of the state budget, he revealed.

"This has no parallel in the economy of any other country. The defence budget has required an increase of NIS 250 million because of the intifada. The loss of revenue in the wake of the intifada is also costing the economy an annual NIS 2b.," Peres said.

He said that the national economy would take a big step forward if peace negotiations started this year. "This would reduce the strain placed on the state budget by security expenditures. It would also open the prospect of new economic and trade ties with the European Community, with Eastern Europe including the Soviet Union, and with the Far East including Japan," he predicted.

"Weapons and military training have become a great deal more costly," Peres said. "You cannot conduct a defence policy these days unless you take economic considerations into account as well. Almost all the nations of the world, including the superpowers, have learned this lesson."

He stressed that the world market is a decisive factor in the development of the national market. "Island economies have ceased to exist. They have been replaced by macro-market economies," he said. "The ability to remain competitive depends on the level of technological development and knowhow, not on geographical size or on mineral wealth."

"Marketing is the modern-day diplomacy. Israel has made big strides in research, development and production, but now it has to make big strides in marketing and exports as well," he urged.

The finance minister warned that two sizeable dangers would threaten the country in the new fiscal year—increased inflation and increased unemployment.

Noting that budgetary deficits are one of the major causes of inflation, Peres said he had accepted the view of Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno that the deficit must be kept down to 3 per cent of the GNP.

He added that "mass immigration and the acceleration of economic activity could also create inflationary pressures that must be curbed instantly."

He said another way of combating inflation would be to keep the size of the civil service down and to curb public spending.

Hinting at recent union demands for wage rises, Peres lauded the cost-of-living agreement with the Histadrut and said "I hope the logic in that agreement will serve as a guideline in future wage agreements." The cost-of-living accord, signed last year, included significant concessions by the union.

The tax reform proposals for middle-income earners which would increase their net income by between 3 and 4 per cent would be equivalent to wage increases of between 5 and 6 per cent, the minister argued. "Tax reform, as a result, will moderate wage demands and make the national economy more competitive," he said.

Peres said that while the budget has envisaged the arrival of 40,000 immigrants during fiscal 1990-91, additional funds would have to be found if immigration passed that figure. But higher taxes and compulsory loans were not advisable, he warned. It would be better to take long-term loans at convenient terms abroad, and to sell the government's shares in the banks and state corporations in order to raise the extra money for immigration.

If 100,000 immigrants arrived, he said, 40,000 new jobs would have to be found for them, which would mean an increase of 2.8 per cent in the national labour force, "an achievable target."

In the debate, Alignment MK [Knesset Member] Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino had only bad things to say about her party leader's proposals. "By slashing subsidies on commodities and services, you have to put the welfare state policy into reverse," she accused him. "You have swept away the principle of universality in national insurance by making children's allowances dependent on an income test. You have eroded free compulsory education, done away with egalitarian public health services and deprived residents in the development towns of their former concessions," Arbeli charged.

Her party colleague Nava Arad mocked Peres for implementing the "brilliant idea of destroying national insurance that the Likud had shelved when it held the Treasury." A third Alignment MK, Eli Ben-Menahem, also warned that he would vote against the budget.

From the Likud benches, meanwhile, the faction's economic spokesman Ari'el Weinstein charged that the budget proposal made what seemed like a half-hearted attempt to attain its objectives, and hence was unacceptable in its present form.

"Better to pass a provisional budget for three months until the Treasury comes up with more serious solutions to the challenges of immigration and unemployment," Weinstein urged.

He charged that Peres had failed miserably in all four of the objectives he set himself last year—halting inflation, reducing unemployment, spurring growth, and preparing for mass immigration.

Avraham Verdiger (Agudat Yisra'el) echoed the plaints of all the ultra-Orthodox factions about discrimination in allocations from the national purse. "The Treasury must pay for the educational needs of the Tora sector, just as it covers the costs of the public which feeds on foreign culture," he argued.

Verdiger accused politicians from the right and left alike of ganging up with the media against the ultra-Orthodox and branding it "extortionist" on the eve of each annual budget debate.

Sari Nusaybah on Peace Process, Immigration

TA3001162490 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
29 Jan 90 p 16

[Interview with Bi'r Zayt University professor Sari Nusaybah by Hisham 'Abdallah; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: What do you believe was behind the Israeli Government's decision to arrest Faysal al-Husayni?

A: I think the arrest then release of Faysal al-Husayni reflected a conflict between different sectors within the Israeli Government. One side of this conflict wants to torpedo the peace process, and its actions are consistent with earlier attempts to "wriggle out" of an evolving dynamic leading Israel closer to negotiations with Palestinians who are clearly identified as PLO or pro-PLO figures. The Weizman affair is another example.

On the other hand, there are forces within the Israeli Government which (a) are in principle in favor of further nurturing the peace process, and (b) believe that such acts bring more harm than good to Israel's international image in the first place. It seems that given the immediate international flurry caused by the arrest, the "rejectionist" group within the government had to retract.

Q: There is speculation among Palestinian intellectuals here that some kind of political initiative is being brewed in the occupied territories. What is your opinion? If there is no such initiative, where do you see the current peace process going now that Israel's unacceptable conditions have created such a serious deadlock?

A: I am not personally aware of any local political initiative being discussed at present. On the other hand, I disagree with the statement that the peace process is now deadlocked. Quite the contrary, all the evidence points to the fact that an ongoing interchange of ideas is taking place. I am not saying that any one particular formula will eventually be agreed upon, but some formula will be. Bridges are slowly being crossed, and the two sides will very probably directly engage each other in the battlefield of negotiations.

But this does not mean that further changes will not first have to take place in the political arena. Nor does it mean that the first round of talks will immediately and automatically lead to the second round. We live in a world of possibilities and probabilities. Their becoming realities is a function of our actions. Possibilities increase or diminish with each step we take.

Q: The Palestinian call to reach out to the Israeli public this year appears to be the first action by the Palestinians concerning their conflict. Do you feel that this strategy will work, and do you see it as the beginning of a series of Palestinian moves aimed at finding a way out of the current political impasse?

A: It is wrong to construe the call to address the Israeli public in this way. In my opinion, it is the Intifada which was the first real act of national self-determination of the Palestinian people. The Intifada, in its turn, has expressed itself on different levels, including the diplomatic level. Within this diplomatic context, the Intifada has constantly and consistently tried to convey its message of peace to the Israeli public, sometimes even through leaflets written in Hebrew by the Unified Leadership.

Today, however, and still within this context, there is an urgent need to develop this aspect, to widen the circle of interlocutors and audiences, to de-demonize the Palestinian image in Israeli minds. But in my opinion, while this is a necessary part of the Intifada, it is by no means sufficient. Just as important, if not more, is the need to pursue the groundwork of "state-masonry," i.e., of proceeding with the dual, civilian process of disengagement and construction. This is how you create facts, initiate change and achieve your goals. Once again, there is no such thing as a political impasse if the national will is harnessed in the right way. All the Palestinian people need do to achieve their liberation is to build on what they have already achieved through the Intifada strategy.

Q: The expected arrival of thousands of Soviet Jews in Israel may have serious repercussions on the Palestinian issue particularly since Shamir hinted recently that he would need the occupied territories to house the new arrivals. Do you see that as happening?

A: Let us look at these issues separately. First, the immigration of large numbers of Soviet Jews will undoubtedly defuse the present incentive, especially in the Labor Party, for territorial withdrawal. The demographic incentive, after all, is Labour's only or major incentive for such withdrawal. Less incentive means less engagement in the peace process, and this may therefore lead the region into war.

Secondly, whether or not Soviet immigrants settle in our occupied Palestinian state, surely their influx in large numbers within the "green line" will generate all kinds of internal pressures that will strengthen the hands of those in Israel who call for settling the territories.

If, thirdly, these immigrants are indeed earmarked for the occupied territories, then partition as a solution becomes less practical.

Fourthly, the region's resources must be properly assessed. In particular, how can Israel oppose the return of Palestinians to the Palestinian state on the grounds of limited resources while blatantly ignoring such restrictions on Soviet immigrants?

Fifthly, the whole issue is a painful reminder of the 3.5 million Palestinians in exile. There is something painfully unjust about perpetuating the state of Palestinian exile while at the same time attending to the needs of Soviet Jews.

I must finally add that I am not opposed to the principle of Jewish immigration to Israel. What concerns me is what the implementation of this principle at this stage and within the present context might do. In particular let us not, in addressing Jewish woes, forget about Palestinian woes, sufferings and aspirations.

Q: Do you see the changes in Eastern Europe as having a negative effect on the Palestinian struggle? If so, what advice would you give Palestinian decision-makers concerning this issue?

A: The changes in Eastern Europe will not be detrimental to the Palestinian cause in the long run, although the initial overreaction to the 22-year-old boycott on relations with Israel will be at the Palestinians' expense. Further down the road, however, the democratic regimes in Eastern Europe will be in even stronger alliance with the democratic struggle of the Palestinian people.

Soviet Official Signs Cooperation Memorandum

TA3001122090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed this morning at the Treasury in Jerusalem between the visiting Soviet delegation and the Finance Ministry. The agreement, signed by (Yuliy Olkhovikov), vice president of the Soviet Peace Committee [title as heard], and Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin focused on the areas of agriculture, communication, industry, tourism, trade, and transportation. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 30 January, in a page C8 report by Avi Gan'or, adds that the 1989 trade between Israel and Eastern bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, was only $220 million."]

(Olkhovikov) told reporters that there would be increased cooperation between Israel and the Soviet Union, but refused to say if there would be direct flights in the near future.

Ends 'Very Successful' Visit

TA3101115390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The Soviet Union is "very interested" in hosting an economic delegation headed by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres which would also include Jewish businessmen from abroad.

The Soviet economic mission, which departed yesterday after a six-day visit, expressed interest in hosting Robert Maxwell, Nisim Ga'on, Armand Hammer, Sha'ul Eisenberg, and Ya'aqov Taman, according to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry at a press conference.

No date for Peres' visit has been set, and the official response of his office is that he will not go until the Knesset approves the state budget. However, it is believed that Peres is waiting until he is promised a meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yuriy Olkhovikov, the head of the Soviet mission, told reporters that the visit had been "very successful," and that the delegation had met with local businessmen and government officials in areas in which the Soviet Union is interested in cooperating with Israel.

The delegation signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel outlining the specific areas of interest to the Soviet Union, including agriculture, communications, industry, health care, tourism, trade, and commercial air and sea transportation. [Writing on page B2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 31 January, 'Oded Shorer notes that following the talks conducted this week between Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and the visiting Soviet economic delegation, it has been learned "the Israeli Energy Ministry has been conducting talks with the Soviet authorities on the purchase of coal for the power stations in Hadera and Ashqelon."]

Olkhovikov refused to answer questions regarding his statement to Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz that nothing would come out of their talks unless Israel declared that it would not settle Soviet immigrants in the territories.

"Let's talk business. I don't like to talk about things in which I'm not competent," said Olkhovikov, in response to a question as to whether the Soviet Union would change its emigration policy if immigrants were allowed to settle in the territories.

According to a report by Foreign Ministry official Ya'aqov Kohen and Bank Leumi Chairman Moshe Zanbar, who were in Moscow last week with a Chamber of Commerce delegation, the Soviets are being pressured by Arab groups not to trade with Israel.

Olkhovikov emphasized that the Soviet Union had "serious intentions" regarding trade with Israel. He said that his country was interested in purchasing a variety of goods including dairy cattle, dairy technology, and solar energy technology.

[An ITIM report on page B2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 31 January notes that "the Soviet Union has acceded to Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's request to install direct dialing telephone links with Israel."]

He also said that the Soviet Union would like to participate in a joint venture in the field of medical technology.

Olkhovikov would not say when direct commercial flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv would be approved by the Soviet government. "I may have my secrets, may I not?" he quipped.

The flights would speed up the Soviet immigration to Israel. At present, prospective immigrants have to wait up to a year to get a place on indirect flights to Israel.

According to Peres, such flights are also extremely important to Israel because they can serve as a link for flights to the Far East and open up markets there to exports including perishables such as flowers and produce.

Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naftali Yaniv said that the Soviets were interested in buying 90,000 tons of fruits and vegetables of all kinds as a first step towards continued trade.

Yaniv said that the potential market for agricultural products is enormous. "Moscow alone could use up 90,000 tons of produce in 10 days," he said. He added, however, that payment terms might be a problem as the Soviets prefer to pay through a barter system.

Peres Urges Lifting Restraints on USSR Trade

TA3101114490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israel will support rescinding U.S. restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union because Soviet policy changes on Jewish emigration have been significant, Vice Premier and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday after meeting with a visiting Soviet economic delegation.

Peres said: "It is a different Soviet Union. The changes are irreversible. (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev represents deep changes transforming the Soviet Union, including the Soviet relationship to Jews, in particular."

Peres said he was for waiving the restrictions in the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which has denied the Soviets most-favoured-nation trade status since 1974 because of their restrictive policy on Jewish emigration. [passage omitted]

East European Flights Proposed for Soviet Jews

TA3101081190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] East European airlines have proposed flying Soviet Jews to Europe, from where they can go to Israel. The airline companies are from Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Romania.

A Voice of Israel reporter says that barring direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv, this would allow additional thousands of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel.

Georgiy Martirosov, head of the Soviet consular mission in Israel, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday. A Voice of Israel reporter says the ministry's East European section informed Martirosov of Israel's reaction to the remarks of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov.

Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav last night rejected Soviet claims that Prime Minister Shamir's call for a big Israel impeded the signing of a direct flight agreement between the two countries. Qatzav called on Moscow to honor the agreement, which was supposed to have been implemented last month, and he urged the Soviets not to mix politics with commercial dealings.

Jewish Agency Confirms Talks

TA3101113390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Jewish Agency has confirmed that talks are under way with various airlines to bring Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel via Bucharest and Budapest. Details of the negotiations have not been released, Jewish Agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari stated, because of the sensitive nature of the issue. He added that the possibility of direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv has not been eliminated. He told reporter Miriam Herschlag that the Soviet exodus could easily fill several planes a day, noting that 500 immigrants had arrived in Israel in the past 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Presidential Candidate Arrives for Talks

TA2801121690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Relations between Israel and Hungary are thriving, according to Imre Pozsgay, Hungarian presidential candidate, who arrived in Israel for a 6-day visit as guest of the Labor Party. Pozsgay's party, the Hungarian Socialist Party, wants to be accepted as a member of the Socialist International. Our correspondent reports Pozsgay hopes to gain Labor Party support for this move. Dan Eshel talked to Imre Pozsgay at Ben-Gurion Airport:

Imre Pozsgay's Hungarian Socialist Party only recently has adopted this name. Before the recent revolution, it was the Socialist People's Party—in other words, Hungary's Communist Party. Pozsgay is scheduled to meet with President Herzog, the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and Ministers Rabin, Arens, Shahal, and Bar-Lev. Pozsgay during his talks here will study various ways to advance bilateral relations. He hopes to obtain Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres' support for his party's acceptance to the Socialist International.

Pozsgay said relations between Israel and Hungary are thriving. The resumption of ties between the two countries is an important and sovereign step by our countries, and Hungarian public opinion welcomes it. Pozsgay believes his chances of being elected Hungarian president are good, although he first must be elected to parliament in the upcoming elections, he said.

Israeli Ambassador on Relations With Romania

AU2601192790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1435 GMT 26 Jan 90

["Relations Between Romania and Israel"]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 26/1/1990—In a statement to the Romanian foreign-policy weekly LUMEA AZI Israel's ambassador in Bucharest, Zvi Mazel, said relations between Romania and Israel were fine, which accounts for the confidence in their future. Romania, he said, has placed on its legitimate standing in Europe and in the world. Along the centuries the Romanian people has given world-famous musicians and writers. Now, when thinking is free in Romania, you will be able to make a far more substantial contribution to world culture. We in Israel wish to see bilateral relations develop. Thousands of Israeli tourists visit Romania every year. As many as 400,000 Jews living in Israel come from Romania. They are linked to the Romanian people by the culture they acquired there, by relatives and friends on that land.

FRG 'Urging' Delay in Establishing GDR Ties

TA2901105990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] East Germany is expected to call for full diplomatic ties with Israel immediately, when representatives of the two countries meet this morning in Copenhagen.

West Germany, however, is urging Israel to delay the establishment of such relations. The West Germans argue that Israel should wait until the first free East German elections in May show whether the East German people favour German reunification, sources close to the East German government have informed THE JERUSALEM POST.

The two-day Copenhagen talks, between the leading Middle East expert of the East German Foreign Ministry and one of its most senior officials, Ambassador Hans Naumann, and Foreign Ministry Diaspora Affairs Advisor Mikha'el Shilo, is to centre on East German willingness to immediately open an Israeli embassy in East Berlin, headed by an ambassador.

These sources say that the East Germans have already approved a draft statement accepting a measure of responsibility for the Holocaust, and will accept the idea of reparations for survivors. The East Germans realize that such a statement is a prerequisite to full diplomatic relations with Israel. The East Germans also claim that they stopped training and giving weapons to PLO terrorists two years ago.

It is understood that the East Germans consider diplomatic ties with Israel an important way to stem the growing momentum towards reunification with West Germany.

Israel, however, does not seem to be in as much of a hurry as East Germany to establish ties. This is due, these sources say, to West German apprehensions.

THE POST has learned that the national security advisor of West Germany, Horst Teltschik, has recently met several times with the Israeli Ambassador in Bonn, Beni Navon, and has urged Israel to go slow on talks with East Germany. The West Germans cite the uncertain political future of the East Berlin government, and point to the May 6 election, the first multi-party balloting in that country, which they say will clarify whether reunification will occur soon.

Despite an East German commitment to pay reparations in principle, there is expected to be no effort to set a timetable for payment given the poor economic state of East Germany. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 29 January, in a report by Ilan Kfir and Yohay Refa'eli on page 2, reports that "Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav yesterday instructed that all talks about a civil aviation agreement with the GDR—requested by the GDR national carrier—be halted, pending negotiations on the fabric of relations between the two countries."]

'Businesslike Atmosphere' in GDR Discussions

TA3001102690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jan 90 p 5

[Report from Copenhagen by Shlomo Shamgar]

[Text] Israeli and GDR representatives conducted a meeting yesterday afternoon in Copenhagen. These were initial contacts toward possibly establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The venue of the meeting was kept secret. The conversation was conducted in English, and the meeting lasted several hours. The East Germans expressed desire to end the one-sided policy the previous regime followed and open a new chapter in relations with Israel. The Israeli delegation imposed a total blackout on the meeting's contents. It seems the Israeli delegation presented a broad historical survey that reviewed German atrocities toward the Jews. The hostile attitude East Berlin so far has shown toward Israel and Zionism also was mentioned.

At the end of the meeting, there was a decision to conduct a second meeting at 1030 this morning.

Mikha'el Shilo, an adviser to the foreign minister, heads the Israeli delegation. He was accompanied by Shmu'el Merom, the deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's

East Europe Department, and Mikha'el Arbel, a counselor in the Israeli Embassy in Denmark. Reiner Neumann, deputy director of the Near East and Middle East Department of the Foreign Ministry in East Berlin, a female diplomat, and two junior diplomats whose names were not disclosed headed the GDR delegation.

A communique issued by the East Germans after the meeting stated "the exchanges were conducted in a businesslike atmosphere, with both sides presenting their positions. The head of the delegation, envoy Neumann, said the talks could lead to resuming relations." [position of quotation marks as published]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 30 January, in a report on page A4 by Ester Edelstein in Copenhagen, adds "the East Germans are unhappy with the low level of the Israeli delegation." The report further adds "following the announcement yesterday on advancement of the election date in East Germany, the GDR delegation members would prefer to wait until after the elections before they set any principles. No discussions regarding reparations and East Germany's recognition of its role in the holocaust were conducted."]

EC Official: No Chance of Joining EFTA

TA3001152190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jan 90 p B1

[Report by David Lipkin]

[Text] Fernand Brown, director general of the Industry Ministry of the EC Commission [name and title as published], yesterday made it clear Israel does not stand a chance of joining EFTA [European Free Trade Association] to improve the terms of its EC dealings.

Brown made these remarks in a meeting with Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin. He noted EFTA is in distress because it now has to reexamine its way due to the EC position, which is against establishing new business agreements until 1993. Brown, guest of the Manufacturers Association and Administrative Center in Israel, told MA'ARIV Israel should negotiate with the EC based on the agreement it already has. He rejected claims the EC agreements with Poland and Hungary will affect Israel and other countries. There is no competition here, he noted, and also these are not long-term agreements. Priority now is given to negotiations the EC is to conduct with GATT to remove obstacles in trade relations with countries outside the European Community.

Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i attacked the agreement Israel now has with the EC. He believes Germany could serve as a better base to penetrate European markets through increasing cooperation in industry and in research and development. Moda'i again lashed out at the government for failing to appoint a minister to coordinate EC affairs and the lack of manpower in the embassy in Brussels.

Charge d'Affaires Appointed for Vienna Embassy

TA3001111290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 90 p 10

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Ari'el (Peter) Aran was appointed yesterday charge d'affaires at the Israeli embassy in Vienna, the top Israeli diplomatic post in Austria. Israel withdrew its ambassador from Austria in 1986 to protest the election as president of Kurt Waldheim, who was allegedly connected to Nazi atrocities during World War II.

Resumption of Ties With CSSR, Poland Set for Feb

TA3001133190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 90 p A2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Czechoslovakia and Israel officially will announce resumption of ties at the end of next week, and 3 weeks later Poland will issue a similar announcement. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will depart Thursday for Prague, the day after the Likud Central Committee meeting, and will head a delegation participating in the ceremony marking resumption of ties. Arens will meet with CSSR leaders, including President Vaclav Havel.

The Foreign Ministry is looking into possibly combining that visit with a similar tie-resumption ceremony in Poland. This, however, does not seem feasible. Arens therefore will leave for Warsaw during the second half of February. Mordekhay Paltzur, who heads the Israeli interests office in Warsaw, will serve as ambassador ad interim, as he is expected to return to Israel this summer after several overseas assignments. A number of Foreign Ministry officials already have applied for the post.

IDF Responds to Alleged 'Brutality' at Bases

TA3101114790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv—A high-ranking IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer admitted last night that junior commanders in some basic training camps sometimes beat and harass recruits.

Addressing a press conference called by the IDF spokesman, the officer claimed there were only "a few cases" of misconduct in three of six bases that had been inspected. He persistently refused to detail the findings of a report on the subject or name the bases.

The issue came to light yesterday in a report by HA'ARETZ military commentator Ze'ev Schiff, who said that a "very serious" report submitted to Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron revealed that some commanders "in many training bases...degrade soldiers, sometimes to a point verging on brutality." In some cases soldiers had been beaten, Schiff added.

The high-ranking officer insisted there "was no hint of any connection between the findings and suicides," the number of which has been rising among troops.

He said that two months ago Shomron had ordered an inquiry into complaints and rumours concerning several basic training camps. Three reserve lieutenant-colonels were called up and asked to make unannounced visits to those bases, including some at which front-line troops were being trained.

The lieutenant-colonels submitted a preliminary, handwritten report a fortnight ago, moments before that week's General Staff meeting, and the senior officer promptly told the generals about its contents.

Shomron summoned the investigators for further questioning and the generals responsible for the camps visited them.

None of the findings were "shocking," the officer claimed, refusing to divulge details to prove his point.

Earlier yesterday, Yuval 'Elam, an educator who prepares high-school seniors for their military service, said in an interview with Israel Radio that junior commanders have a problem turning young recruits into professional soldiers under pressure.

"The pressure applied on them by their platoon, by company and battalion commanders...causes problems. If the NCOs and junior commanders lack experience they resort to curses, degrading the recruits and harassing them," he added.

IDF Officer: Palestinians Control Most of Gaza

TA3101072590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The senior officer in charge of situation assessment in the Gaza Strip told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: Reviewing the situation in the field, it becomes clear the political process will not move forward without the PLO's involvement. According to him, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] may be in control of the Strip's main traffic axes, but the Palestinians are the ones in control of the place in general.

The senior officer added the picture is absolutely clear: The intifadah leadership does not function as a leadership; rather, it acts within a framework designed to preserve the intifadah's operational level. The officer pointed out the terror and hatred constantly are growing; there remains no Palestinian family that has not been hurt or whose members have not been imprisoned. As a result, the hostility toward us is growing.

Knesset members who participated in the meeting, which Southern Command Commander Matan Vilna'i also attended, expressed appreciation for the frankness and openness of the officer's remarks, as well as those of other officers. The MK's noted the officers in charge of situation assessment work for no one in particular; they present a realistic picture of the situation.

Woman Injured; Gazans Sentenced; Homes Sealed

TA3001115590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A woman was slightly injured this morning by stones thrown at a bus. The incident occurred on the No 25 bus traveling close to Bayt Hanina.

In the Qalqilyah area, the body of a villager from Bayt Amin was found on the roadside. There were no signs of violence, apart from a blow to the face.

In Gaza, the military court sentenced six Khan Yunus residents to jail for between 6 to 9 years. They were found guilty of carrying out hostile activities and attacking residents suspected of cooperating with the authorities.

Security forces sealed the homes of two suspected terrorists in Nabulus. The two men are suspected of having killed eight local Arabs rumored to have aided Israeli authorities. The suspects are also accused of having fired weapons at Israeli soldiers.

17 Arabs Said Wounded in Clashes in Territories

TA2901202790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Six Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria were wounded today, two seriously, in violent clashes with soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus quotes Arab sources as saying there were two additional casualties. The violent clashes occurred in Ramallah, Tubas, the 'Askar and Janin refugee camps, and the village of al-Masahiliya in Samaria. In Gaza, Arab residents reported nine casualties in violent clashes.

The wave of vehicle torchings in Jerusalem continues. In the Abu-Tor neighborhood, two cars belonging to Jews were set on fire while parked near the homes of their Arab drivers. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports fire brigade investigators found they were deliberately set. One of the vehicles, a Volkswagen Transporter, was completely burned, while the engine of the second was seriously damaged.

A bus transporting pupils from the Misgav district was stoned this evening near Shorashim Junction in the Galilee, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent Nati Silberman reports one of the female escorts saw a youth in khaki hurl stones at the bus. Two residents of Sakhnin found in the area were detained.

Bra'shit Shelling Said in Response to Attacks

TA3001115290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jan 90 p A10

[Report by Shefi Gabay and ITIM]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Security sources have reported the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday carried out heavy artillery shelling of the Shiite village of Bra'shit. Many of the locals fled north toward Beirut, fearing more shellings. The raid was in response to recent terrorist attacks on Israeli forces in the vicinity.

84 Percent Increase in Immigration in 1989

TA3001060890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jan 90 p A5

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Moshe Reinfeld]

[Text] Some 24,000 immigrants and potential immigrants came to Israel in 1989, 84 percent more than in 1988. About 12,900—54 percent of all 1989 immigration—came from the USSR. In 1988, only 2,300 came from the Soviet Union. Some 21 percent of the total 1989 immigration consisted of potential immigrants—that is, people who have stayed in Israel for a prolonged period without registering as immigrants.

The Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman said in the past year, some 1,900 immigrants arrived from the African continent, compared with 1,300 the preceding year. The number of arrivals from Europe stood at 3,800 compared with 3,700 in 1988. Some 4,150 came from America and Oceania, compared with 3,950 in 1988. The only decline was in the number of immigrants from Asia: 1,200, compared with 1,700 in 1988.

The 1989 immigrants included 1,850 from Argentina, 450 from England, 250 from South Africa, and 1,900 from East Europe. The Immigrant Absorption Ministry spokesman said the total number registered by his ministry in 1989 included 24,650 immigrants and potential immigrants and 2,020 returning citizens and minors.

Further on Jordan-Syria Committee Meetings

News Conference Covers Agenda

JN2901202090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Unattributed report; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee began at the Prime Ministry this morning, with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi leading the Syrian side. The deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the ministers of foreign affairs, transport, economy and foreign trade, industry, the Central Bank governor, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman, accompanied by experts, also attended. Led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the Jordanian side comprised the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the ministers of industry and trade, transport, agriculture, water and irrigation, the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Central Bank governor, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Here are more details:

[Unidentified correspondent] "Welcoming al-Zu'bi and his delegation, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said we trust your visit will produce positive measures to address the challenges faced by the Arab people in Syria and Jordan. Badran praised bilateral cooperation based on the directives of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, which he said enhances the prospects for all-around fruitful and useful talks by us. The challenges to Syria and Jordan by our common enemy, added the prime minister, call for increased cooperation and coordination to avert the danger threatening the Arab nation. Badran concluded by saying that he hoped the higher committee meetings would produce positive results—not only for the two countries but for all Arabs as well.

"The Syrian prime minister replied that he and his delegation are delighted to be in Jordan. We feel we are staying in our own country and in the midst of our own folk. He praised the cooperation between Syria and Jordan, which he credited to the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. These relations are founded on shared interests, since we face a common enemy. We Syrians and Jordanians, therefore, have to work to make Arab solidarity a protective shield for the Arabs, especially at this juncture when all efforts must be dedicated to countering Israel's hostile schemes against the Arab homeland. Concluding, al-Zu'bi said he hoped new ways would be found to boost frutiful cooperation to meet Arab objectives.

"Over 2 days, the committee will discuss subjects of common interest and seek to promote bilateral cooperation in the economy, trade, agriculture, transport, communications, and energy. They will also look into the state of joint companies."

Al-Zu'bi arrived in Amman earlier today. He replied to journalists' questions.

[Al-Zu'bi] "I would like to say first how happy my delegation and I are to be visiting, and to be so warmly welcomed in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is an expression of the truly brotherly relations between the Syrian and Jordanian peoples. These relations cover every sphere, but most particularly in economic matters and trade, with a view to eventual integration in the spirit of the noble goals outlined by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn to meet public aspirations in the two brotherly states.

"We have made substantial progress and bilateral cooperation has yielded positive results. The agenda of this session contains many items that we hope will bring positive results to further our joint action. The joint companies have been successful and so have bilateral trade ties and exchanges. There is ample room for joint activities. It is useful and possible that new ground may be broken. Subcommittees in the two countries have been coordinating on the items that will be discussed by the joint committee. I would like to emphasize that strengthened relations between Syria and Jordan will advance Arab solidarity and joint Arab action against the ever-present Israeli designs on Arab territory. Recent statements by enemy leaders on [Jewish] settlement activity and the insidious remarks about a substitute [Palestinian] homeland highlight Zionist covetousness. We in Syria reject such policies and support our brothers in Jordan. Relations of common heritage and geography require that we work together now and at all times to foil these treacherous plans. We have confidence in our cooperation, since we are only satisfying the aspirations of our peoples in Syria and Jordan."

[Unidentified correspondent] "Your Excellency the Prime Minister: If you will, what damage has resulted from the cutoff of the waters of the Euphrates from Syria?

[Al-Zu'bi] "The withholding of water has resulted in damage to the environment and has adversely affected drinking water and agriculture. Contacts are under way with the parties concerned on this issue. We believe that the damage will be minimized by Syrian-Turkish talks and meetings. Also, the Turkish Government has promised to allow larger amounts of water through. We hope the Euphrates will prove to be a bridge of peace and amity among the countries through which it passes—Turkey, Syria, and Iraq."

For his part, Mudar Badran told journalists:

[Badran] "I would like to extend my warmest welcome to my colleague his excellency the Syrian prime minister and his delegation as they begin their visit to our country. During this visit, and as always, we will open our hearts the way we have whenever we get together with any of our brothers. I have no doubt that the Arab peoples in Jordan and Syria very much look forward to such meetings, based as they are on amity and inspired by the desire to advance the general good of the people. I have always said that meetings among officials of Arab states can only produce good and inspire hopes for a better future for the Arabs throughout the Arab world. I again welcome his excellency the Syrian prime minister and his delegation in their country of Jordan. Our wide ranging discussions will cover the economy, joint companies, Arab solidarity, and bilateral relations."

Prime Ministers Comment at End

JN3001190690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee concluded its meetings today in Amman. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has departed. Our correspondent followed the committee's meetings and prepared this report:

[Begin recording] [correspondent] The Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee affirmed the desire to reinforce existing ties of cooperation between Jordan and Syria in all fields. This came in the minutes of the committee's meetings, signed this afternoon at the Prime Minister's Office by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of sisterly Syria. The minutes add the committee meetings were a continuation of the march of joint cooperation between the two sisterly countries, as set by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad.

The minutes note the meetings of the higher committee in Amman sought to achieve the interests of the Jordanian and Syrian people and to meet the two peoples' aspirations for Arab economic integration and Arab unity, as well as to implement the policy of the two countries' governments to strengthen ties of cooperation and galvanize joint activity in all fields.

The minutes say that committee adopted decisions designed to reinforce cooperation between the two countries in agriculture, industry, oil, mineral resources, and electricity, as well as in trade, the Jordanian-Syrian free zone company for industry, and telecommunications.

Al-Zu'bi responded to journalists' questions before leaving Amman:

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, at their conclusion, what is your assessment of the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee?

[Al-Zu'bi] In fact, during this session there were meetings between myself and my brother, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and between Jordanian and Syrian ministers. A general assessment was made of the aspects of various activities and functions, particularly regarding Syrian-Jordanian joint companies. It was decided to give these companies' work momentum and to make their work more profitable and economical. We also discussed other aspects of cooperation to intensify and develop trade and to establish joint projects between the two countries. I can say the talks were fruitful and successful; these talks were an example to be followed in relations among Arab countries. Through these talks, we felt a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, as well as an honest desire to make cooperation and coordination leading to integration an objective of each party. Many decisions and recommendations were made; they will have a positive impact on the march of action and cooperation in the future.

[Reporter] What is Syria's stand on the immigration of Soviet Jews into Israel?

[Al-Zu'bi] Let us say we should seek the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland, the Palestinians should return to Palestine, and consequently, any settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegitimate and illegal. All Arab states should utilize pressure and adopt positions to prevent immigration into Palestine from any country. If the Soviets are emigrating and if people immigrate from Eastern Europe to other countries, this does not necessarily mean they should come to Palestine. What is important is there should be a united Arab stand, and the Arabs must know where their interests lie to defend them in all international quarters.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, does Syria prefer an Arab delegation contact the USSR and Eastern Europe regarding Jewish emigration?

[Al-Zu'bi] In fact, it expressed....[changes thought] Today, we heard in the media a Soviet statement on Jewish emigration. He who reads it again will find it is a positive stand warning against exploiting the fact the USSR allows its citizens to leave, just like other countries. It warns against exploiting this issue for political reasons or for reasons Israel tries to use in its own interests. [end recording]

Prime Minister Mudar Badran also spoke with journalists:

[Begin recording] [Badran] In fact, intensive emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and permitting Jews to emigrate to the land of Palestine with full freedom, is, as we see it, a major obstacle on every road that might lead to peace. As known and declared, hundreds of thousands of Jews will emigrate from the Soviet Union. As the United States has limited the entry of those emigrants, the question that comes up is: Where will these emigrants go? They will go to our occupied territories and replace the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. The question, therefore, is not one of human rights, because one would wonder about the rights of the Palestinian people on their lands. The world must be made to understand this question only means the expulsion of more Palestinian inhabitants from their lands, the usurpation of their natural right, and, consequently, their transfer to other territories.

The question raised in the past concerned the return of the Palestinians to their lands. The Palestinians were forced to disperse all over the world at two major stages: in 1948 and 1967. They still live in camps in Jordan and

Syria, awaiting repatriation. Today we find their hopes of returning gradually are dwindling as emigrants from other countries come to occupy their lands and houses. The world must be made to understand this. This requires true and careful consideration, not only by Jordan—although it is the country most directly affected by this issue. This question should be tackled by all the Arabs, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. Resolution No 242 states it is inadmissible to occupy the land of others by force. The Palestinian lands were occupied by force, and now these immigrants come to take the place of the Palestinians.

As you know, some settlements were established in the West Bank. Some of the immigrants were moved to these settlements and others were sent to live in settlements to the south of Gaza. The number of these settlements is known; they have been set up in a structural way since the beginning of the occupation to prepare for this serious threat to the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people throughout the Arab homeland in general. We, therefore, support any call for an Arab summit meeting, but such a summit should be prepared for fully, so it can come up with carefully studied resolutions. We also encourage intensive Arab contacts with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to make them realize the meaning of this development, which never will lead to peace in any future stage.

[Reporter] Will a Jordanian delegation soon conduct contacts with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe?

[Badran] I say it is better for an Arab delegation to do this. There are contacts and there is friendship between many Arab countries and the Eastern bloc. All Arabs should move, through one delegation, to explain this point. The Soviet Union is calling for peace and for resolving the question according to the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No 242. The emigration of Jews to Palestine is in complete opposition to this resolution.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] the other Arab countries?

[Badran] We have discussed this subject with our Syrian brothers during their visit to Jordan. They also feel this danger. We moreover have talked with our brothers in Iraq about the subject, and they also feel this grave danger. We will continue our contacts with all the Arab countries to pursue the subject.

[Reporter] Have you and the Syrians worked out any framework or concept of the nature of the Syrian move within the overall Arab effort on the Palestine question?

[Badran] In fact, this overall concept has existed between us and our Syrian brothers for a long time. In the past, we have called for implementation of Resolution No 242 and convening an international conference involving the permanent Security Council member states. We also discussed inviting some states that have contacts and an influential role to play in solving the problem. We in Jordan still are saying Resolution No 242 should be applied, as well as the principle of land for peace. An international conference on the issue also should be convened. This is the right way to solve this problem in light of Jordan's policies. [end recording]

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then answered reporters' questions:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Sir, what is the effective way to create a unified Arab position to confront the challenges and dangers threatening the Arab nation, especially the immigration of the Soviet Jews into the occupied Arab territories?

[Al-Shar'] Undoubtedly, our Arab nation has been facing fateful challenges, not only now, but also in the past. Israel's expansionist settlement policy at the expense of Arab rights and land represents these challenges. We also believe confronting these challenges requires real Arab solidarity, even more than that. Arab energies should be mobilized, the Arab position should be coordinated and unified, and an overall framework of unity should be worked out for the Arab countries to form an effective force first to safeguard and defend the Arab land and Palestinian rights, and second to confront the great changes in the international arena. We believe Arab officials and common citizens have motives to achieve this goal. Arab leaders, therefore, should launch brave, coherent initiatives and ignore the regional trends that have emerged during the past years. They also should move toward unity of action, thought, and concentrated Arab effort to use Arab potentialities to overcome all difficulties and meet all challenges imposed on us by recent developments.

[Reporter] What is Syria's specific position on calling for an Arab summit?

[Al-Shar'] We in Syria believe convening an Arab summit to discuss the basic and fateful issues facing the Arab nation is a vital, popular demand. It also interests the whole Arab nation and its leaders. I am confident President Hafiz al-Asad is paying a great deal of attention to this issue; during our meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, we also felt he has the same inclination. We also are confident this trend exists in all the fraternal Arab countries from the Ocean to the Gulf. There is a historic opportunity for the Arab leaders to meet and study all major issues and draw up a real plan to close Arab ranks in the face of all fateful challenges. [end recording]

Al-Shar' on Water, Immigration

JN3001205890 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir interviewed the Syrian foreign minister, Mr. Faruq al-Shar', who also spoke about Jewish immigration.

[Begin recording, broadcast in progress] [Al-Shar'] ...blocked the Euphrates water. What is Syria's position in this case?

[Al-Shar'] Well, we have expressed our position on a number of occasions. We believe that the mere idea of dealing with the Euphrates River as an international one which concerns Syria, Iraq, and Turkey in a unilateral way is a precedent which is harmful for the three countries. We believe that the three countries, that Syria, Iraq, and Turkey should sit together and discuss the whole matter in a friendly way to preserve the interests of the three countries. And I think this is the right to do it.

[Al-Sha'ir] What do you think of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and how is this going to affect the Middle East peace process?

[Al-Shar'] Well, I think as long as the right of the return of the Palestinian people who are in the diaspora is still denied by the Israeli Government, then any immigration of any sort to Palestine is incompatible with this denial and it is in contradiction with international law. And we have to think seriously about this wave of immigration because it does not serve at all the interest of peace and security in the region and it is in contradiction with the human rights of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Sha'ir] Thank you. [end recording]

Ministers on Peace, PLO

JN3101102890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpts] Amman—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi ended two days of high-level talks here Tuesday with the two sides agreeing on joint positions regarding the need to counter Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and hold an Arab summit to discuss this issue.

The Syrian premier described Israel's reported plans to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "illegal" and called on all Arab countries to "exercise all kinds of pressure and adopt all necessary measures to stop this immigration to Palestine regardless of its origin."

But he added that media reports on the Soviet position on the issue were "positive and indicated that the Soviet Union will not allow Israel to politically exploit Soviet Jewish immigration."

Al-Zu'bi, who was talking to reporters at the airport prior to his departure for home, was referring to a warning by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Vorontsov to Israel that it should not use the current wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to displace Palestinians from their land.

"We oppose any use of citizens leaving the Soviet Union, at great risk to them, to push Palestinians off land belonging to them," the head of the Israeli consular delegation to the Soviet Union, Arye Levin, quoted Vorontsov as saying at a meeting in Moscow.

Prime minister Mudar Badran, also speaking to reporters at the airport, described Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel as "a stumbling stone on the road of peace," and said that Jordan favours forming Arab delegations entrusted with explaining to Eastern bloc countries the dangers inherent in any mass exodus to Israel. "It will not lead to peace at all," said Badran.

"His Majesty King Husayn wants an Arab move to explain to the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries the dangerous repercussions of this issue on peace," Badran said.

"We talked to our Syrian brothers on this point and they understand this (Soviet) mistake and we also talked to our brothers in Iraq and they also feel this great danger and we will continue to talk to all Arab countries on this issue," Badran told reporters. [passage omitted]

Turning to the broader issue of efforts for peace in the Middle East and the various initiatives that have been proposed, al-Zu'bi said his country has a "very clear position towards what is taking place on the Palestinian arena."

He explained that Syria was aware of the contacts between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with other parties but Damascus felt that these moves "will not lead anywhere, especially since we constantly hear statements by the Israeli enemy which reflect its wish to settle and expand."

Al-Zu'bi's reference was to an initiative proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo as a prelude to Israel's plans for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

Badran said that Jordan had always felt that the PLO's positive reaction to the Baker initiative "is a political move to make the world realise that the obstacles are being placed by Israel."

"We also do not believe that Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories because it still plans to displace people and does not want peace," Badran said.

He said that Syria feels that these proposed talks "will not lead anywhere because Israel will not withdraw...will not return anything."

"In conclusion, we are in agreement with the Syrians but as a political move (the Baker plan) is still there," Badran added.

The only solution, Badran said, could only come through "Arab unity because the weak cannot make peace."

The Syrian prime minister, asked about moves to reconcile Damascus with the PLO, said the PLO was welcome to send a delegation any time. "There have always been open invitations to the PLO by Syria," al-Zu'bi said. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question whether there were any Egyptian mediation between Syria and Iraq, al-Zu'bi said: "We have not heard of this until now." [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim on 'Positive' Syria Talks, Immigration

JN3101094090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jan 90 Pp 1, 19

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and prime minister, has stressed the Jordanian-Syrian meetings conducted the last 2 days in Amman are part of Jordanian-Arab contacts to pave the way for joint Arab action. He described the meetings as positive regarding this.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Al-Qasim said any expected Arab meeting in the future must be preceded by clear, serious preparations on all Arab levels to tackle the major issues; namely the Palestinian question, the peace process, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iraq-Iran situation, in addition to two major problems; namely Jewish immigration to Israel, and water, including the Arab world's water requirements in the coming decade and means of protecting Arab rights to Arab waters from any move taken at their expense.

Pointing to the economic and political groups established and to be set up in the world, he said: This is the right time try extensively for a minimum level of dealing with the rest of world's political or economic groups. He called for adopting a unified Arab stand closer to pan-Arab interests to deal and interact with the new groups.

He warned against unilateral or separate deals on the Arab level, saying these only will lead to the Arab state losing that state that deals unilaterally with the world.

Whether the Jordanian and Syrian sides discussed the border issue, he said: The border was not among issues discussed by the two sides. The Syrians, however, are very interested in all forms of cooperation to keep Jordan and Syria in a position that will not give anyone the pretext to disrupt the stability and balance of both countries.

Al-Qasim spoke about dangers posed by the Soviet [Jews] emigration to the occupied Arab territories. He said this issue concerns all Arabs and should be seriously dealt with.

Answering a question on whether there are Arab contacts with the USSR to play a more effective role in this issue, Al-Qasim did not deny contacts, saying there will be further contacts among the Arab states to launch what he called a "campaign" to determine how to deal with this issue. [JORDAN TIMES in English on 31 January while reporting Al-Qasim's remarks to journalists prior to the Syrian delegation's departure from Jordan, cites Al-Qasim as saying that Vorontsov's statement Monday "was taken up with the Soviet ambassadors in the Arab world, and I think there will be more consultation within the Arab world to see ways and means on how this campaign would be affecting us."]

Newspaper Praises Syrian Support for Jordan

JN3001092890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jan 90 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "We Have Not Been Left Alone Facing the Dangers"]

[Text] Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee began yesterday in Amman with speeches delivered by the prime ministers of the two fraternal countries. These speeches were inspired by heartfelt pan-Arab sentiments harbored by the sons of the Arab nation extending from the farthest point in the Ocean to the farthest point in the Gulf.

Bilateral cooperation, coordination, and integration are a fact of life. They have not developed, however, the way they should have. But Jordanian-Syrian cooperation, coordination, and integration have been maintained as a result of meetings conducted by officials from Amman and Damascus. The terrible danger threatening both the Jordanian and Syrian existence has been there since the beginning of the Zionist emigration to Palestinian lands.

The challenges posed by the common enemy, addressed by Prime Minister Badran, therefore actually require enhancement of the fraternal bilateral coordination to render it a manifestation of "a single throbbing heart," so each state will not have to face the danger single-handedly, considering we are part of an Arab homeland extending from the ocean to the gulf. The people closest to us in ties of kinship, territory, and history are the Syrians. Besides, the danger threatening both of us is the same. We have a common existence and fate whether we like it or not, and whether the Sykes-Picot agreement likes it or not.

The brother [Jordan] asked its brother [Syria] to coordinate stands to face the impending danger. We were delighted to hear the statements by Prime Minister al-Zu'bi affirming strong Syrian support for Jordan in the face of Israeli threats.

We are concerned about securing food and water for our people. Our first and foremost concern, however, is we should not be the next victim of the Zionist hostile war machine, which lies in wait for us to find a vent for its internal and external crises and to liquidate the Palestine question—territory, people, and rights—and resolve it outside the occupied Palestinian homeland.

Fraternal Syria affirmed it will stand by our side in our confrontation with the imminent Zionist danger. We always have stood by Syria's side in its confrontation with the same danger in the past three wars. We highly value this well-known pan-Arab spirit characterizing the Syrian leadership and people—the spirit rendering them always ready to support Arab brothers in hard times so all Arabs in this greater homeland can live in peace and security.

The people of this steadfast Arab country no longer are forgotten by the brothers in their confrontation with the most ferocious danger posing threats to regional peace.

Syria-Iraq Ties Needed For Cohesive Arab Front

JN3101110990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Restoring the Arab Frontline Is Required"]

[Text] The Arab situation must keep up with accelerating developments in the region and the world and respond to challenges and developments to occupy an Arab position in the world's current changes. Israel for a long time has used international legitimacy as a cover. This legitimacy, however, called for recognition of the Palestinian national rights after the PLO responded positively to the peace conditions. The Arab position as a result should be strengthened, achieve solidarity, respond to the Israeli challenge, and stop its new form of aggression represented by the continued immigration of large numbers of Jews to Palestine. This immigration is the most serious Israeli action since its 1967 aggression.

As our nation is facing this challenge, a strong, cohesive Arab front should be formed again by the Arab frontline states [duwal al-tawq al-'arabi] regardless of any obstacles, because excuses will do no good considering such an Israeli challenge.

Accordance to this realistic idea, we immediately should call for clearing the atmosphere between Syria and Iraq to enable them to move toward coordination, joint action, and cohesion with the Jordanian position to complete the chain of strong, coherent relationship among Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and the PLO in the face of aggression.

A swift move of this kind will end the Israeli dream and will be a practical reply to any deviation that does not serve the Arabs' interests at the international level. In addition, this step also will convince our friends the Arabs are serious in taking their affairs into their own hands, especially since international relations mainly are based on interests, rather than principles.

If the Arabs do not take this step to overcome the main obstacle of Syrian-Iraqi relations, the proposed Arab summit conference may not produce anything new.

We fear the policy of international detente will be at our expense, and we also fear Israel, as usual, will exploit the current rearrangement of international priorities to commit a new aggression before the current detente reaches its goal, to reverse the balances, implement its old, but new plans, and to overcome its crises at our expense.

Further on Belgian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets With Al-Qasim

JN2401192290 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A round of official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry today between the Jordanian side led by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy foreign minister and foreign minister, and the Belgian side led by Eyskens, minister of foreign relations. During the meeting the two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them. The two sides also made a detailed discussion of the situation in the region, particularly regarding developments on the Palestine question.

Al-Qasim expressed Jordan's appreciation for the constructive stance of Belgium and the EC. He noted the importance which Jordan attaches to the European position for achieving peace in the region. Al-Qasim also reviewed the efforts by Jordan to achieve a swift political settlement, noting the positive Palestinian and Arab stances and the Israeli intransigence which constitutes the only obstacle to peace in the region. Al-Qasim explained the dangers of the increasing immigration to Israel in light of the statements made recently by the Israeli prime minister in which he uncovered his government's expansionist plans.

Eyskens expressed his government's appreciation for the moderate and wise policy followed by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He also expressed deep concern over the precious time being lost without achieving tangible progress in the peace efforts.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens arrived in Amman today on an official visit of several days to Jordan. He was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, a number of senior officials, the head of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, and the Belgian ambassador in Amman.

The Belgian minister commended the important role played by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn to give momentum to peace efforts in Jordan.

[Begin recording, in English] [Eyskens] Well, as you are aware Belgium and the European Community stick to the implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations 242 and 338. We also share the conclusions of the summit of Venice 2 years ago, and at the summit meeting of the European heads of states and heads of government in Strasbourg in December, we again insisted on the necessity for starting a peace process by negotiations. And this is our position. And if I come to your country, the main reason is that we know that your country plays an important role as a very active element in what we hope will become a true peace process, starting with negotiations of course.

[Reporter] What about the Israeli plans to settle those immigrants in the occupied territories?

[Eyskens] I think that that will not help the solutions we have to find, the international community, and especially the leaders of this part of the world. That is common sense.

[Reporter] What do you hope to discuss or accomplish on this trip?

[Eyskens] Well, as I said this country is playing an important role in the region for us. We have had very high praise for the action of your government and his majesty the king. I had the pleasure of meeting Minister al-Qasim two times in Brussels. I was very impressed by the accuracy of his analysis. And we are doing our best within the European Community. And I think many future international relations will depend upon the development of good relations between the European Community and other countries, especially here in the Near East. In December we had a Euro-Arab summit in Paris. This was, I think, a very important initiative taken by the French president. We came to a lot of conclusions at that meeting and now we have now to try to implement these conclusions. And we could already, I think, both sides examine what we have to do in the coming months and years. [end recording]

Confers With Husayn

JN2501174490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] His majesty the king discussed Jordanian-Belgian relations and Middle East developments with visiting Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens.

At the audience in the Royal Court, his majesty voiced his concern over lack of progress in Middle East peace efforts and emphasized that the Israeli position was still impeding progress. His majesty noted that Israel's hard-line policy was still escalating, despite the moderate stand of the PLO and the organization's offers to advance the peace process. His majesty said he was deeply concerned over Jewish emigration that posed dangers to peace prospects.

At the meeting, his majesty also spoke about Lebanon and Arab endeavors to put an end to the crisis in that country. Turning to the Iraq-Iran conflict, his majesty underlined the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and to transform the current cease-fire into permanent peace.

The Belgian minister asserted Jordan's contribution to solve regional problems and added that Belgium would support this role.

The audience was attended by his royal highness the crown prince and other high-ranking officials.

At a separate meeting, his royal highness the crown prince discussed with Mr Eyskens Jordanian-Belgian relations and Jordan's position towards the Middle East conflict.

Concludes Official Visit

JN2501203390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens concluded an official 2-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

He also conducted talks with a number of officials on the latest Middle East developments, as well as the international efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis. Talks also dealt with the role the EC can play regarding this. Eyskens left Amman for al-'Aqabah, where he began a 2-day private visit acquainting him with the cultural and tourist sites in al-'Aqabah and Petra. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the mayor of Amman, the dean of the diplomatic corps, and the Belgian ambassador in Amman saw him off at the Amman civilian airport.

Soviet Team To Discuss Rescheduling Debts

JN3001085490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 90 pp 1,3

[By staff writer Ghadir al-Tahir]

[Text] Amman—A Soviet delegation arrives here today in an attempt to reach an agreement on rescheduling Jordan's debts to the Soviet Union after earlier efforts had failed.

V.F. Mordvinov, the Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations, who will be heading a high-level trade delegation, will seek to reach agreement on about $230 million representing Jordan's debt repayment instalments due in 1989 and 1990, linking part of them to exports of Jordanian products to the Soviet Union, according to official sources.

"About 95 per cent of the debt is military debt," an official source told the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity. The bulk of the debt was incurred during 1984 when the Kingdom bought Soviet equivalents of the American hawk missiles, the source said. The Kingdom also turned to the Soviet Union and acquired a major air defence system after the U.S. Congress vetoed an $1.8 billion arms deal with Jordan but no definite figures or details of the purchases from Moscow were revealed.

Informed sources estimate Jordan's total debt to the Soviet Union at several hundred million. Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah Monday refused to give an exact figure, saying "it is not our policy to release the amount of the debt for each country."

A senior official who was closely involved in the previous talks with the Soviet Union said obstacles remained in the way of a final agreement between Amman and Moscow on the debt repayments. However, highly-placed Soviet sources said Moscow expected "concrete results and a final agreement" from the Soviet delegation's talks in Amman this week.

Then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Tahir al-Masri led a delegation to Moscow in August 1989 to reschedule the debt repayments for 1989 and 1990 but only reached an agreement in principles. In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES following the talks, al-Masri, now a member of Parliament, said the delay in reaching an agreement was due to differences on the details and volume of Jordanian exports linked to the agreement.

Another official source familiar with the details of al-Masri's discussions in Moscow said: "The talks failed because Jordan wanted to reschedule the debt on the same basis as its agreement with the Paris club; for example, move up payments for five years with a five-year grace period, but Moscow wanted to commit the Kingdom to pay the debt repayment for 1989 in cash." So far no payments have been made on the debt for 1989. The source said the Soviet Union wanted Jordan to pay the debt for the first half of 1990 in goods and the payment due in the other half of the year would be open for negotiations.

"The two sides could not agree on the percentage of goods or the demand to pay in cash," he said. "If Jordan pays in cash to the Soviet Union, then other creditors, the Paris and London clubs, would demand cash too," he asserted.

Another snag which developed in the Moscow negotiations was terms for the second half of 1990, according to the source. "Leaving negotiations open for the other half of 1990 left the door open for terms the Kingdom would not agree to," he said.

One of the obstacles, the volume of goods, has been removed, according to the source. Originally, the Soviet Union wanted to buy more phosphates from Jordan than its own needs in order to sell the extra quantity to a third country. However, Jordan opposed this idea, and told Moscow "that they can have as much cement and phosphate as they want but not for resale; subsequently they dropped this demand," the source said.

Jordan does not export any goods to the Soviet Union, according to Soviet officials. The delegation is expected to look into other Jordanian products besides cement and phosphates.

Islamic Leader Rejects 'Lies' on Government Deal

PM3101104090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Jan 90 p 22

[Interview with Dr 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, spokesman of the Islamic bloc in the Jordanian House of Deputies, by Faysal al-Shabul; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shabul] There are different views of the Islamic Bloc deputies' role in the House of Deputies. Have you drawn up a clear plan and organized your priorities in the House?

['Arabiyyat] The Islamic bloc has its slogans and programs, which it presented during the joint campaign of the Muslim Brotherhood movement candidates. They are the same slogans and programs we apply inside the House of Deputies. The bloc's objective is reform, comprehensively conceived. The bloc agrees with other blocs in the House and with independent deputies over some aspects of that reform. It directs its attention to cooperation with all colleagues, with the Legislative Council blocs, the executive, and anyone who can help implement the reform program on which the bloc is focusing for the sake of the country's and the nation's interests. [Passage omitted]

[Al-Shabul] Some say your granting of confidence to Mudar Badran's government was nothing but a deal to secure ministerial portfolios in his government in the expected cabinet reshuffle.

['Arabiyyat] It is not true there was a deal behind granting confidence to the government. All the claims circulated merely are baseless lies. Besides, the bloc will not take part in a quick cabinet reshuffle. It never has had any undeclared conditions.

Our position is clear, and all our conditions are declared, since the bloc presented them in the joint statement I delivered to the House during the government statement debate.

The bloc remains committed to what it committed itself to in public—a strong bloc with declared aims and a clear program of action. If it desired to participate in the executive, it would not have asked to be excused. If we had any personal ambitions, they would have emerged in the bloc's joint statement.

[Al-Shabul] So you will not have a share in the expected reshuffle?

['Arabiyyat] Not at all. The subject has not been discussed at any level, nor is it in our program to pursue that matter. Reshuffle rumors are common in Jordan and tend to start after forming any government. The reshuffle personally concerns the government and its head. As we have declared openly, we seek reform, to monitor implementation, and raise questions when there are shortcomings. [Passage omitted]

[Al-Shabul] Some accuse you of adopting positions to appease the authorities, as when you granted your confidence to the government, although you had given the impression you would deny it. Do you still fear a confrontation with the authorities, despite the prevailing democratic atmosphere?

['Arabiyyat] There is no reason to fear the authorities in the atmosphere of parliamentary life. In parliamentary life, authorities are cooperative and supportive. What should be feared is the absence of parliamentary life. This is because, in the absence of just legislation, control, and questioning over implementation, shortcomings emerge and the executive expands at the expense of both the legislature and judiciary.

In parliamentary life, we work comfortably and confidently and feel we are one team cooperating for the sake of good and reform. This is why we have prepared ourselves to demand what is reasonable and possible and to deal with different opinions of the executive or others. [Passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces, 'Awn 'Militia' Clash 30 Jan

NC3001144790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Clashes have been taking place in the al-Tahwitah and Chevrolet areas between the militia of rebel officer Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces since 1400 today. This was preceded by reciprocal kidnapping and exchanges of fire between the two parties in the al-Dikwanah and al-'Adliyah areas.

The Lebanese Forces destroyed a picture of General 'Awn yesterday. This incident caused tension between the two parties in the Burj Hammud area and led to today's clashes.

Area Reported Calm

NC3101063790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The situation has been restored to normal in the al-Tahwitah area [East Beirut] after dealing with the consequences of the shooting incident which took place at noon yesterday and led to roads in the area being closed for some time.

'Awn Seeking to Eliminate LF

NC3101093790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In addition to cutting off the water supply to West Beirut and stripping the rifles from the Lebanese Forces in the area extending from Furn al-Shubbak to al-Karantinah, yesterday 'Awn fabricated a security incident with the Forces. He followed it with a full alert which soon turned into an open confrontation when he told a crowd at B'abda Palace yesterday: Now nobody will set up an army at my expense.

'Awn's followers raided the Qamar School building in Furn al-Shubbak area at 1330 yesterday and expelled members of the Lebanese Forces who used the building as a barracks. This action resulted in the two sides' exchanging gunfire and going to an all-out alert. The eastern area came to a standstill, and fear gripped the citizens. According to various sources, the Army escalated the tension by setting up checkpoints, firing in the air, and kidnapping and arresting several members of the Lebanese Forces. Four people, including a Lebanese Army soldier, were wounded.

What draws attention is the fact that the security incident and the mutual alerts coincided with what 'Awn said, which was considered tantamount to beginning a confrontation with the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Forces rushed to hold political contacts through George 'Udwan [from the Christian rightist al-Tanzim organization] in a bid to contain the situation.

Commenting on 'Awn's threats, a source close to the Lebanese Forces described what has happened as tantamount to declaring a war. These threats, the source said, are very similar to what 'Awn said on 14 February 1989 [when he announced the start of the "liberation war"]. The source pointed out that the situation is very delicate in the eastern area, and said 'Awn's one goal is to gain power. He also said 'Awn does not want anyone in the eastern area to compete with him.

Fighting Continues in East

NC3101104490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces' 5th Department]

[Text] While efforts and endeavors were focusing on peacefully tackling the situation that began at noon yesterday, a military unit occupied the Phalangist Party central office in the al-Naqqash area where there had been no armed presence. The unit then attempted to advance toward the al-Dubayyah complex made up of the educational institute and some military barracks belonging to the Lebanese Forces. The units assigned to defend these centers started to repel the attacks. Fighting is still continuing.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1000 GMT on 31 January reports that "this morning Michel 'Awn's militia started to implement its decision to eliminate the military presence of the Lebanese Forces throughout the eastern area. This step coincides with an intensive military buildup."]

'Awn's Forces Take Control

NC3101105390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In addition to earlier reports about the explosion in the situation in the eastern area, the latest information we have received is that the areas of al-Dubayyah, al-Dikwana, and Antilyas, and the coastal road up to al-Safra are now under the control of the al-Yarzah cliques and that Ja'ja's [Lebanese] forces have retreated. These clashes have left two members of the Lebanese Forces dead and four others wounded.

RFL Denies 'Awn Control

NC3101110790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Radios in West Beirut are disseminating false reports about the situation in the eastern area. A responsible source has said that there is no change in the situation on the ground. Some of the Lebanese Forces' positions were surprised this morning when they were fired upon. They have adopted a policy of self-defense now after doing all they can to avoid the battle, and they are now in full control of their areas.

The Bayt al-Mustaqbal [Phalangist Party central office] is an intellectual center, and there is no military presence there.

AFP Reports Fighting

NC3101113290 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 31 (AFP)—Forces loyal to Christian military leader General Michel 'Awn battled Christian militiamen with heavy artillery here Wednesday, causing widespread panic, witnesses said.

Shells exploded in Al-Ashrafiyah, a quarter in central east Beirut mainly controlled by the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Artillery exchanges between Gen. 'Awn's troops and the LF were also reported in Christian suburbs of the capital.

The fighting caused panic in Christian areas, with shoppers hastily drawing down their shutters and drivers, horns blaring, trying to find shelter through the city's traffic.

The two sides had clashed Tuesday in a Christian suburb and tension had remained high in Christian areas overnight.

A first clash Wednesday was reported near Al-Dubayyah, 15 kilometers (eight miles) north of Beirut, in territory situated between the al-Matn region, under the general's control, and Kasrawan, where the LF is in command.

The LF later accused Gen. 'Awn's troops of attacking several of its barracks at Al-Dubayyah and said its fighters had repelled the assaults.

On Tuesday, troops and militiamen had fought briefly near the Green Line dividing Beirut into Christian and Moslem sectors, when Gen. 'Awn's units took control of a suburban school that had been in the hands of the LF.

The taking of the school allowed Gen. 'Awn's forces to increase their freedom of movement in Christian areas. [passage omitted]

Communist Radio Reports Fighting

NC3101115890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1149 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

According to well-informed sources, heavy fighting is currently raging around the al-Biqa' barracks in the al-'Abd area. 'Awn's army is trying to block the supply routes to 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The same sources added that the army artillery emplacements are pounding the Lebanese Forces' positions in Nayruba and 'Ajaltun. The army forces, according to the sources, have seized the Ra's al-Dikwanah barracks and are currently besieging the national fund building in al-Dubayyah.

LF 'Repulsing' Attacks

NC3101135390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1331 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces [LF] positions in Nahr al-Mawt area are still being shelled. The LF is repulsing all the attacks against their barracks in al-Dubayyah. It has been learned that groups of the army officers and soldiers have contacted the LF command and informed it that they are not involved in the fighting and will not take part in the battle, which they described as a suicidal battle that would only benefit the enemy. They say they will stay in their homes.

Fighting is also under way in Jubayl, al-Dubayyah, and 'Ayn al- Rummanah, where the LF are repulsing all attempts to take over their barracks.

It has been learned that the Army units in Kafr Shima and Bikfayya have been withdrawn from the front and sent to take part in fighting inside the Christian areas.

More on Fighting

NC3101142190 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1335 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Violent clashes involving all types of weapons are raging and are concentrated in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, and al-Tahwitah. Two fires, one huge with black smoke covering the area, have broken out in al-Tahwitah. A tank has been spotted firing at Army officers' homes in al-Hazimiyah where Army artillery emplacements are located. A shell hit a home adjacent to al-Sayyad Publishing House, and other falling shells are causing columns of smoke to rise above al-Ashrafiyah. Several shells also landed in the Jisr al-Basha area.

Pitched battles continue on the northern al-Matn Coast, particularly in the al-Dubayyah area near the Lebanese Forces Military Training Institute and the National Fund, the Lebanese Forces financial center. Tension prevails in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Nahr, al-Dawrah and al-Karantinah, where many Lebanese Forces members and vehicles are roaming the area. Many gunmen are deployed in all quarters.

Security sources note that 7 hours after the clashes began, the forces under former army commander [General 'Awn] have not attained any tangible results. However, there is a report that the army took control of a Lebanese Forces' barracks in Ra's al-Dikwanah and the Bayt al-Mustaqbal, cultural center which the Lebanese Forces said is a cultural center devoid of any military presence.

LF Headquarters Under Fire

NC3101145590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1428 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces' 5th Department on 31 January]

[Text] The building housing the general headquarters of the Lebanese Forces command came under artillery fire a short while ago.

The Lebanese Forces command warns against the continuation of this shelling. Unless the bombardment ceases, it will be forced to shell the headquarters of the Lebanese Army command.

At 1530 today, 53 members of the Lebanese Army's 7th and 8th Brigades, which are deployed in the areas of 'Amshit and (Nahr Ibrahim), were taken prisoner. Halat Airport and its immediate environs have come under the full control of the Lebanese Forces. The soldiers who have been captured are receiving good treatment.

At 1545, a group of Lebanese Forces fighters managed to seize the civil defense center in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, where an army unit was stationed. The Lebanese Forces fighters also seized army-owned artillery emplacements in the art college area and took control of the building.

'Awn, LF Reportedly Reach Cease-Fire Agreement

RFL Reports Cease-fire

NC3101120890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1159 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A cease-fire agreement has been reached. It will go into effect at 1400 today.

'Sporadic Explosions' Still Heard

NC3101122990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] At 1345 today the Army and Lebanese Forces commands reached a comprehensive cease-fire agreement to take effect at 1400 today. However, bursts of gunfire and sporadic explosions can still be heard.

Army Command Urges Citizens To Be Cautious

NC3101130590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army Command on 31 January]

[Text] In light of the security conditions caused by the deployment of gunmen in a large part of the liberated areas and in view of the fact that they have opened fire on the army positions and patrols, the army has been forced to retaliate against the sources of fire. Citizens are asked to be cautious for their safety.

Army Positions Stop Fighting, Fall, Join LF

Halat Airport Seized

NC3101142990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces units have taken control of certain Army positions in the Jubayl area, including Halat Airport. Several Army positions have joined the ranks of the Lebanese Forces, while others are contacting the Lebanese Forces command to declare their neutrality and unwillingness to participate in the fighting.

More LF Seizures

NC3101151290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1442 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces 5th Department on 31 January]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces fighters have taken full control of the white building in Badaru and its environs. The Lebanese Forces also took control of Mu'arbis hospital in the Freres area, where an army unit was stationed.

Meanwhile, the al-Rumiyah emplacement in al-Qulay'at was destroyed. With this, all the army emplacements in Kisrawan have been destroyed.

[At 1445 GMT the same radio cites a statement by the Lebanese Forces 5th Department saying that: "The Lebanese Forces fighters have taken control of the army position in 'Uyun al-Siman. This was the last stronghold of the army in this area. Fifty elements of the army supporters brigade who were stationed in (Dayr Rayfun) were captured and their position was taken."]

Finance Ministry Falls

NC3101160090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1547 GMT 31 Jan

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces 5th Department on 31 January]

[Text] The building housing the Finance Ministry, which is located near the public security headquarters, has fallen to the Lebanese Forces fighters, who have now taken up position inside the building.

Several security forces personnel were taken prisoner. They are well and receiving good treatment.

Sarba Army Barracks Joins LF

NC3101155290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1538 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] We have just received the following from the Lebanese Forces 5th Department: The Sarba barracks in Kasrawan has declared its allegiance to the Lebanese Forces. Members of the Lebanese Forces have joined the army personnel in the barracks.

[At 1547 GMT on 31 January the same station carries the following announcement: "We have just heard that the Lebanese Forces 5th Department has declared that all barracks belonging to the 'Awn group in 'Amshit have surrendered to the Lebanese Forces."]

'Awn Radio Denies Barracks Fall

NC3101160690 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1555 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A military source has denied that the Sarba military barracks has fallen to the gunmen. He affirmed that the Sarba barracks is in full control of the situation. In the meantime, the Lebanese Army forces continue to pursue gunmen on the fringes of the al-Fanar area.

Army Denies Positions Captured

NC3101174390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army units continue to defend their positions against attacks by [Lebanese Forces] gunmen. The Lebanese Army has taken full control of a large number of the gunmen's barracks and positions. So far, the Lebanese Army has captured the gunmen's barracks in Nahr Ibrahim, al-Fanar, al- Bawshariyah, al-Jadidah, al-Dikwanah, Antilyas, 'Awkar, al-Matn Coast, al-Safra', and Tabarja.

The Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate issued the following statement this afternoon:

In response to action aimed at restoring state control over a school run by the Ministry of National Education in al-Tahwitah in Furn al-Shubbak yesterday, gunmen have been carrying out attacks against army positions in Antilyas, al-Dubayyah, al-Safra, 'Amshit, Furn al-Shubbak, and al-'Adliyah since this morning. The army had to defend its positions against these attacks. So far, army units have been eager to prevent the confrontation with the gunmen from spreading. However, the gunmen stepped up their attacks, using heavy-caliber weapons. They installed mortars, artillery, and rocket launchers in residential areas and shelled army units.

The Army Command calls on the gunmen to lay down their arms and join their brothers in the military barracks so as to halt the bloodshed and consolidate the ability to defend the homeland. The Army Command reiterates that the normal place for resistance is in the ranks of the army. Service in the army is the best way to defend freedom and the homeland in the face of suspect designs and hesitant stands.

A campaign of rumors is being orchestrated in order to raise the morale of the gunmen. Allegations have been made denying that the barracks of those gunmen have been captured by the Lebanese Army. Claims have also been made that army positions have fallen into the hands of the gunmen. Security sources have confirmed that these allegations are untrue and asserted that the army units, which continue to act in self-defense, were able to overrun all the barracks of the gunmen in Nahr Ibrahim, al-Fanar, al-Bawshariyah, al-Jadidah, al-Dikawanah, Tabarja, and al-Safra'.

A military source at the Lebanese Army Command has asked the public not to heed the rumors and listen only to the statements issued by the Army Command. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Chief Ja'Ja' Discusses Fighting

NC3101135090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1126 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Doctor, everyone is asking what is happening, what are the results, what is the solution, and what is happening in the country.

[Ja'ja'] Okay, stay with me for a moment. As a matter of fact, for 1 and ½ years we have done everything to ensure the eastern areas' security. For 1 and ½ years we have been subjected to a lot of aggression. I imagine that Job did not endure as much the Lebanese Forces have endured. Sometimes it has been verbal aggression, political aggression, aggression against liberties, aggression against establishments, or aggression against departments, and several times it has been aggression against Lebanese Forces personnel. Each time we tried to forget these incidents for the reason I mentioned and because of our concern for the citizens and the situation in the eastern area. What we see now has gone beyond all bounds. If the operation's aim is to eliminate the Lebanese Forces, then we will not accept it. No one can do it, and let no one try to do it.

Every fighter in the Lebanese Forces is a real fighter. What is this talk we are hearing that says the Army is the only military tool? There is the Army, and there are the Lebanese Forces. Several times the Lebanese Forces have worked harder than the Army. If the Army has recently been working, the Lebanese Forces have also worked in the past, are working now, and will work in the future. It is not permissible for someone to cancel someone else. Working from this premise, I ask all Lebanese Forces personnel to remain in their positions and to behave as they should. At present several positions are under attack. All of these attacks have been repulsed.

I do not accept any attack on any Lebanese Forces establishment, department, barracks, or personnel. From this standpoint, I ask all officials to behave responsibly and to stop these provocations. Sometimes there is a school which must open for repair. What is this talk? Sometimes there are wanted persons, sometimes on the pretext of information, sometimes on the pretext of education—all these are excuses. This does not mean we do not know what is happening. There is a limit to our patience. Therefore, before it is too late, all officials must know that they are not alone. They are not supposed to exist at the expense of all others. We reject this logic. We only want the unity of ranks, and we are defending this area. But this does not mean that the Lebanese Forces will be canceled or that someone can undermine their dignity, freedom, or youth. We are now defending the areas being attacked. There are clear and frank orders to defend our positions. There is nothing more to it. Is this clear?

[Correspondent] Clear, Doctor. But several people are calling Voice of Lebanon. They know that you are a man who calls for calm and wisdom in all situations.

[Ja'ja'] I am still a man who calls for calm. But I cannot call for calm while seeing the Lebanese Forces being slaughtered. I am for calm, but not calm to the extent that I will surrender the institution which I received from others and with which I was entrusted. I cannot allow a situation in which the Lebanese Forces will be slaughtered. No one can do this, and let no one try to do it. From this premise, let all correct their stands and positions. If such a thing happens, then surely I am a man who calls for calm and will remain a man who calls for calm and dialogue.

[Correspondent] Doctor, I will not be revealing a secret if I tell you that several callers have strongly and warmly supported the Lebanese Forces stand.

[Ja'ja'] Our stand is the stand of every citizen in this area. For 1 and ½ years we have been subjected to a lot of aggression. We have been subjected to aggression in all spheres. We have endured and are ready to endure, but not to the extent that our presence will be abolished. No one accepts his presence being abolished. The talk yesterday and the day before yesterday was very clear—that the people should leave the Lebanese Forces and go join the Army. This is abominable and divisive talk. This is fanaticism. This talk is unacceptable. The Lebanese Forces are a 15-year-old institution. Several institutions have appeared and disappeared in the past 15 years. Only the Lebanese Forces have remained.

When a general national solution is reached, when general and comprehensive measures are discussed, when we get rid of occupations in our country, and when we get rid of the other militias, then we will see what to do with the Lebanese Forces.

On the pretext of occupations and other militias existing, some officials are trying to impose their authority in our area and not to leave any institution, leader, or party standing on its feet. We completely reject this logic.

[Correspondent] Another question, Doctor. If this situation remains, what is the fate of the Lebanon?

[Ja'ja'] You should ask those who have fabricated these incidents. Everyone loses from these events. But, dear friend, you should ask the killer, not the victim. Surely, everyone loses, but what shall we do? Shall we stop walking on the roads? Shall we bow our head if we walk in the steet on our way home? Naturally, what is happening is in no one's interest. I call for general and comprehensive calm. I call for a logical dialogue. I call for rejection of fanaticism and factionalism. However, at the same time I can longer accept the Lebanese Forces' being attacked and humiliated as has been happening in the past year.

I have a few last words. I want the Army personnel to know that we come from them and they come from us. I want them to know no one should work in politics by exploiting them. No one should become a leader at the expense of their blood and sweat and at the expense of the blood of their comrades in the Lebanese Forces. He who wants to become a leader should do so through politics, not through force. He should not deploy the Army in our area when it is supposed to confront any external aggression. Okay?

[Correspondent] Okay, Doctor. Just as we are sure about your frank patriotic stands, we are also sure about your wisdom.

[Ja'ja'] May God give you good health. May God give all youth good health.

Stresses Determination To Fight

NC3101152790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A short while ago, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' declared that the Lebanese Forces are currently waging a battle in defense of their existence after some have persisted in their arrogance and imagined that the Lebanese Forces can be abolished by a decision.

Ja'ja' said: The Lebanese Forces have offered 10,000 martyrs who died for the cause, and they refuse to be massacred by those who are blinded by the lust for power. The Lebanese Forces will return 10 bullets for every bullet fired against them and 10 shells for every shell aimed at them. This is our right to self-defense. I appeal to my comrades in the Lebanese Army and tell them: Yesterday, the Lebanese Forces were your support on all fronts. The Lebanese Forces will remain your support and will never be your enemy, just as you will never be its enemy.

Vatican, Maronite Church Mediate for Cease-Fire

NC3101161290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1529 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Dispatch by unidentified correspondent from Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki—live]

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon learned a short while ago that urgent exchanges are taking place at a very high level among the Vatican, Bkirki, and the Papal Nunciature in Lebanon. It has been learned that both General Michel 'Awn and Dr Samir Ja'ja' have been contacted in order to establish a cease-fire.

Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has expressed hope that a cease-fire will be reached and has called on all sides to respond favorably to mediation and stem the bloodshed.

Ja'ja' Says LF 'Ready' To Cease Fire

NC3101162090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1601 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In response to Patriarch Sfayr's cease-fire plea, Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has said: The Lebanese Forces are ready to observe the cease-fire. The Lebanese Forces are only involved in self-defense. You may know, Your Beatitude, that those who had no qualms about assaulting the spriritual leader of the Christians [reference to an assault on Patriarch Sfayr by 'Awn's supporters] in the East will have few qualms about anything.

'Awn Says No Rifles Outside Legitimacy

NC3101164690 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed that he will not go backward and that every step we take will be firm. There will be no place for any rifle outside legitimacy, he said. Addressing a delegation of Regie company workers, the leader of the liberation march emphasized the need to build a state where law prevails, a state that is strong and capable of safeguarding citizens' freedom and rights. Gen 'Awn pointed out that certain people thought that he was not concerned about this. He said that the rifle is to be used for defense and not for showing off in streets or for looting. He said that freedom does not mean infringement on others or on national goals.

Gen 'Awn said: We do not know what the arms bearers want. We do not want clownish acts. The national goals must be clear. He called on the youths who want to defend the homeland to proceed to the barracks of the Lebanese Army, the internal security forces, or the public security.

Minister al-Khazin Denounces East Beirut Violence

NC3101174990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Ilyas al-Khazin, interior minister and acting defense minister, has denounced the violence in the eastern area which is endangering the lives and property of the people. He maintained that these incidents, which have been increasing, are the best proof that legitimacy is the only alternative which the people have to safeguard their security, the security of all the people, and the security of the homeland.

Minister al-Khazin called on all parties to display a spirit of responsibility in order to safeguard the lives of innocent people and the unity of the homeland.

Algerian Envoy Arrives To Mediate Amal-Hizballah

NC2701072890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah between Amal Movement and Hizballah personnel are continuing intermittently. Machineguns and rockets are being used in the fighting.

Meanwhile, Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher arrived in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday on a mediation mission.

Birri Meets Envoy

NC2901152790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has received Algerian Envoy Mohamed Taher. It has been learned that discussions dealt with a plan devised by Taher to be put to the parties concerned.

After the meeting Birri said: We informed Taher of the Amal Movement's approval of the Iqlim al-Tuffah higher committee's plan stipulating the withdrawal of armed men. We have committed ourselves to the cease-fire according to the Algerian initiative and agreed to hand security duties in Iqlim al-Tuffah over to the army and internal forces units.

Birri added: We sent a message to this effect to Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Resume Following Truce

Amal Detonates Bomb

NC3001181890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room in the South has issued the following statement:

Following in the footsteps of Imam al-Sadr and the martyrs, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal from the unit of martyr Commander Haj Abu-Jamal detonated an explosive charge at 1245 today near a joint Israeli-Lahdist patrol comprising a Merkava tank and an M-113 armored personnel carrier on the Rshaf road. Those riding in the vehicles were killed or wounded.

Subsequently, the enemy shelled the area and raked it with gunfire. It also summoned helicopters, which flew over the area. Ambulances transporting the casualties were seen on their way to the occupied border strip.

The statement adds: At 1300 the occupation forces brought in reinforcements consisting of a mine detector, a troop carrier, a Merkava tank, and more than 100 soldiers. They launched wide-scale search operations in the area.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon and the camps, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Maritime sources have reported that last night Israeli gunboats opened fire at fishing boats between al-Zahrani and al-Sarafand, forcing the fishermen to return to shore. The fishermen's union held an emergency meeting in which it discussed the Israeli attacks on the fishermen and decided to address an appeal to international organizations to put a stop such activities.

More on Fighting in South

NC3101105790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Following a 3-day truce reached through the efforts of Algerian mediator Mohamed Taher, Amal-Hizballah fighting resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah last night, particularly on the Sarba, Humin, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Ayn Qana, and Kafr Milki combat lines. At least four people were injured. AFP reported that the explosions were heard in Sidon.

Amal sources said that the clashes began fiercely this morning but gradually abated and are now limited to intermittent skirmishes.

Prime Minister, Delegation Return to Damascus

JN3001202190 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation returned to Damascus from Amman at the conclusion of an official, cordial 2-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Further on Al-Zu'bi Amman Airport Statements

JN3101070590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus today from Amman following an official, cordial 2-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi made a statement at Amman Airport on the results of the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Jordanian Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on joint Arab action at the current stage, he said: We consider the Palestine question the major Arab issue concerning all Arab countries, related to joint Arab action and its objectives—action that requires the efforts of all Arabs, the intensification of these efforts, and the mobilization of all resources to confront the major enemy of the Arab nation, represented by Israel.

Answering another question on the Lebanese situation, Al-Zu'bi said: The Lebanese issue is the business of the Lebanese. As well, there is the al-Ta'if agreement, and there are the legitimate constitutional authorities carrying out their duties and tasks. You know, the national accord government seeks to entrench the pillars of security and stability and reinforce the authority of the legitimate government in Beirut and all Lebanon, expressing the will of all Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on Syrian-Palestinian relations, Al-Zu'bi stressed Syria's stand toward the Palestinian question, said what is happening in the Palestinian arena is very clear, and the Zionist enemy leaders' statements conflict with any claim or desire for peace. He said the door is open for any constructive dialogue with Syria.

Answering another question on Syria's stand toward conducting an Arab summit, Al-Zu'bi said: Syria participated in all Arab summits, it welcomes conducting any Arab summit to achieve effective Arab solidarity, and to discuss any political, economic, or other issue serving the Arab homeland and strengthening its position toward challenges. [passage omitted]

Franjiyah Cites 'Identity of Views,' Departs

JN3001204090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus—Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah left Damascus at 1345 today. He was seen off at the Damascus northern entrance by Mr Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs.

In a predeparture statement, he said he was pleased to visit Syria and meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. He declared there had been an identity of views on the points discussed, particularly concerning the Lebanese situation. President Franjiyah voiced his hope what was agreed upon between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi would be implemented, especially concerning the security plan. Franjiyah paid tribute to Syria's role in helping Lebanon out of its ordeal and giving it support to confront the Zionist enemy. Franjiyah said: It is in the interest of the Israeli enemy to keep Lebanon unstable. With God's help and the support of President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people, however, Lebanon will triumph over its enemies.

Replying to a question, President Franjiyah emphasized the role of the Israeli forces in occupied southern Lebanon is an inhuman one, and noted the bestial actions Israel committed during its invasion of Beirut in 1982.

Al-Zu'bi Heads Rationalization Committee Meeting

JN2701210090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The imports, exports, and consumption rationalization committee met this morning under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The following attended: Comrade Rashid Akhtarini, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and head of the Regional Economic Office; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; ministers, heads of organizations and chambers of commerce and industry; and directors of corporations who are members of the committee.

Topics on the agenda were discussed; namely, making available several raw materials, providing requirements for industrial production in the private sector, and covering their cost from the export of industrial products to foreign markets. The committee also discussed a number of proposals presented by the chambers of industry concerning foreign currency and foreign trade operations aimed at encouraging exports. The committee emphasized implementing resolutions taken by concerned establishments to simplify export procedures and remove any bureaucratic obstacles to meet the objectives of these resolutions and ensure their positive impact on the national economy.

Minister Sees 'Damage' From Euphrates Cut Off

JN2901175890 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Jan 90 p 24

[Interview with Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani by Hamzah 'Ulayyan in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] ['Ulayyan] How is the cut off of the Euphrates by Turkey affecting Syria's agriculture and electricity?

[Madani] First, it has had a considerable psychological impact on Syrians, who depend on the river for their livelihood. It might affect Syrian-Turkish relations, althgough the two governments have, for the past few years, tried to establish friendship and cooperation between their peoples.

Second, the resulting economic and ecological damage will threaten large communities, including Aleppo, and water supplies. Syria furthermore will have to cut back on production of electrical energy in al-Tabaqah dam and subsequently introduce power rationing in the country, including Damascus. Agriculture also will be threatened in the 1990 growing season in the Euphrates basin.

['Ulayyan] The Turks say they have supplied Syria with water in excess of a bilaterally-agreed amount of 500 cubic meters per second during the dam-filling period, and thus, no water problem exists. How do you respond?

[Madani] The problem lies in the fact cutting the water off at the Ataturk Dam is a serious precedent, regardless of the amount released at the Syrian-Turkish border.

['Ulayyan] What is impeding a joint agreement among Turkey, Syria, and Iraq to work out quotas of Euphrates water?

[Madani] There is a three-way technical committee charged with working out a fair and acceptable allocation of shares. The committee, however, has yet to reach any positive conclusions and is not likely to before the three countries adopt a political decision on the matter. A decision will have to be made on giving the committee a timeframe in which to agree upon quotas of water from the Euphrates and Tigris rivers—more particularly the Euphrates—for each country to proceed with water-based development projects.

['Ulayyan] Will the cut off affect construction on the Tishrin Dam project or laying the foundations for the electricity station now under construction at the dam site?

[Madani] No, and work on the foundations of the electricity station at the Tishrin Dam site continues.

['Ulayyan] Turkey has offered to supply Syria free electricity to make up for any shortfall in the generation of electric power. Do you think the Turkish offer could reduce the impact of the water cut off?

[Madani] Turkey has made no such offer, but has proposed a trade-off of electricity for electricity—a trade-off whereby dollar goods are bartered for electricity according to a bilateral agreement. The offer obviously does not lessen the impact of cutting off Euphrates water.

['Ulayyan] The new situation will lead to a decline in the water supply and a 66 percent decline in the amount allocated to al-Tabaqah Dam. How accurate is this information, and how do you plan to solve the problem?

[Madani] In the absence of a trilateral agreement allocating the share for each of the countries crossed by the Euphrates, it is not possible to confirm the accuracy of this percentage. Until such a three-way accord is worked out, the amount of water released at the Syrian-Turkish border will remain subject to Turkish initiative. It therefore will be incumbent on the three countries not to delay reaching an agreement that satisfies their vital interests. It must be based on international law and the principles and recommendations governing joint rivers.

Press on 'Awn's 'Alarm' After Security Plan

JN3101100290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its daily column "AL-BA'TH's Opinion," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on 'Awn's measures and practices against the sons of the Lebanese people. Regarding this, the paper says: 'Awn and his Zionized clique might think they can reshuffle cards whenever they wish. The reckless 'Awn also might think—with the millions he receives from Saddam and Israel, the arms he gets from both, and the crimes perpetrated on political and nonpolitical grounds in B'abda and its vicinity—that matters are in his hands and the homeland's destiny is contingent upon him and those who feed his recklessness and thirst for power and hegemony.

AL-BA'TH adds: If it is not strange nor new for this rebel to shed the blood of the Lebanese, destroy their houses, and kill his opponents in the area under his domination, it also is not strange he should declare a war of water against the sons of Lebanon and prevent this vital element of life from reaching them. The murderer always looks forward to more killing; and the thief seeks more pillaging and embezzling. All this takes place under false allegations and empty slogans.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: It was expected 'Awn's hysteria would grow more intense with approval of the security plan and finishing touches for its implementation by the legitimate government. But when 'Awn starts even to think of hampering implementation of the plan and fighting the sons of the Lebanese people with the water they drink, this means he has become bankrupt and faces a plight from which there is no escape, except through the downfall and inevitable disappearance of this aberrant phenomenon, which has been eaten out from within and besieged on the popular, official, Arab, and international levels.

Considering the above, any observer can see the security plan which shortly will be implemented in West Beirut is bound to be an important and decisive prelude to including the eastern side until it reaches greater Beirut. For the overwhelming majority of the sons of the one homeland have affirmed their categorical rejection of the anomalous partitionist phenomenon. The legitimate government, for its part, has considered this issue through its continuous emphasis on restoring cohesion among the sons of the one homeland and preventing partition by all means and methods.

On the same topic, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The symbols of partition were alarmed by the great success achieved by the Lebanese-Syrian summit. For this summit has provided the suitable atmosphere to begin implementation of the first stage of a security plan that ultimately will cover all Lebanese areas, although this plan has taken West Beirut and some of its suburbs as its starting point. The symbols of partition also were alarmed to find this plan concentrates on Lebanese tools—the Army and internal security forces, and a plan drawn up by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, in a way confining Syria to a supporting role. This in effect foiled many of the partitionists' plans and belied their allegations. They consequently have resorted to explosions and cutting off water as weapons.

Concluding its article, TISHRIN says: From now on, the policy of explosion and making people thirsty will come to no avail. The march of accord will proceed under the slogan partition is prohibited and no one can carry it out.

Afghanistan

Car Bomb in Kabul Damages BAKHTAR Offices

BK3101094890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 31 (AFP)—A powerful car bomb exploded in downtown Kabul Wednesday [31 January], leaving an unknown number dead and injured and causing widespread damage.

The bomb, apparently planted in a taxi, went off at 12.20 p.m. (0750 GMT), blowing windows out of scores of multistorey buildings lining the normally busy street where it exploded. The damaged buildings included the Spinza Hotel and those housing the national news agency BAKHTAR and the Afghan Chamber of Commerce, the witnesses said. The taxi lay twisted and charred on the snowy street.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter on the scene saw scores of people being assisted into ambulances and at least three charred corpses being carried away on stretchers. Blood trails were visible in the snow on surrounding streets where people had fled the scene of the blast.

In the BAKHTAR office, employees huddled at the back of the glass-strewn lobby said at least 10 people had been injured but none killed. Blood trails led down the stairs where the injured had been taken.

Police on the scene said they were investigating where the bomb had been planted. The explosion also left at least six other parked cars charred and twisted wrecks.

It was not immediately clear whether the explosion was the work of mujahidin resistance fighters trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed government here.

'Cluster Rockets' Damage FRG Embassy in Kabul

BK3001154690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 30 (AFP)—Mujahidin cluster rockets fired into central and suburban Kabul Monday [29 January] and Tuesday damaged the vacant West German Embassy compound and hit a bus station and residential area, leaving two dead and 28 wounded, witnesses and officials said.

The West German Embassy compound in the fashionable Wazir-Akhbar-Khan District was damaged when two of the rockets impacted at the back of the embassy's rear wall, security men on the scene said. They said the rockets had sprayed bomblets throughout the embassy garden, shattering a glass house and damaging a service building. Twenty-nine of the bomblets were picked up by security men from the garden Tuesday morning, but others still lay buried in the lawns.

Local German Embassy staff told an AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE reporter on the scene that there had been no deaths or injuries as a result of the two hits.

Two other rockets fell nearby, but apparently in military housing complexes. The government did not report the casualties from attacks on military installations.

A government spokesman said two more cluster rockets, which carry 98 small bomblets in the warheads, hit Kabul early Tuesday, impacting at a bus stand in Kolala Kushta and a residential area in the northwest of the city where two people were killed and 28 injured.

Spokesman Najib Samir said the mujahidin, who have been raining rockets on the city for more than a year as a part of their effort to overthrow the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah, had changed their pattern of rocketing. Now, he said, the resistance fighters were sending two or three cluster rockets into the city daily, instead of the 20 to 30 non-cluster Egyptian-made Sakr 20 and Sakr 30 missiles.

The hit on the German Embassy, which did not damage the main chancery building, came one month after France announced that it would be the first West European country to reopen its mission here since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February last year. Reliable diplomatic sources have said that Italy will follow suit in the first week of March, and that both Austria and West Germany are likely to also follow the same month.

'Extremists' Missile Attack Injures Kabul Citizens

LD3001162490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan-backed extremists wounded 24 of our compatriots today by firing seven surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of Kabul. The BAKHTAR military section reports the missiles, fired under state terrorist plans of the United States and Pakistan, were of a cluster type which scatters 98 mines after being fired. The use of these missiles is against all international norms.

Pakistan and the United States are participating in the unforgivable crimes of the extremists by giving them these missiles to be used against our faithful people. Those injured in today's incidents were taken immediately to hospitals. A number of injured have been released after receiving treatment. Some material damage has also been caused by the missiles.

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Continues Visit

Tours Mazar-e Sharif

LD2701071590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 25, BAKHTAR—The Soviet high-ranking parliamentary delegation led by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the Parliament's Council of the Union and member of the Central Auditing Commision of the Soviet Communist Party [CPSU] left Kabul today for Mazar-e Sharif and visited different parts of the city.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported from that city that the Soviet delegation who was accompanied by Muhammad 'Umar Satih and 'Abdul Rahim Amini, secretaries of the chambers of the Afghan National Assembly, 'Abdul Rashid Ariyan and Dr. Habib Mangal, chairmen of the International Relations Commissions of the National Assembly, was warmly welcomed at the Mazar-e Sharif airport by Helaluddin Badri, vice president of the House of the Senate. Sayyed Zahir Shah Paikargar, chairman of the Higher Council of Defence of the Balkh Province, Mir 'Abdul Rahman Ansari, governor of that province, some people's deputies and senators of that province in the National Assembly, some state and party responsibles and Soviet general council in Mazar-e Sharif.

Later, the guest delegation visited different parts of the fertilizers and electricity complex, constructed by the Soviet Union there, the Mazar-e Sharif congregational mosque and different corners of that city. According to another report the Soviet delegation took part in a function held in the club of petroleum and gas exploration department in that city. During the function Sayed Zahir Shah Paikargar, apprised the audience on the politico-military situation and gains achieved under the national reconciliation policy in that province.

Reciprocally, the head of Soviet delegation apprised the audience on the gains of the policy of perestroyka (reconstruction) in the Soviet Union. The guest delegation attended a banquet arranged in his honour by the Balkh Governor. The Soviet delegation returned to Kabul later during the day.

Meets Youth Organization

LD2801070290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—A number of members of the USSR Supreme Soviet met with cadres, activists and members of the Democratic Youths Organisation of Kabul city here today. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the meeting while Sayyed Muzafar Shah Musafari, secretary of the House of Representatives of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] was present, Samad Karmand, a deputy-chairman of the House of Representatives and secretary of the Democratic Youths Organisation of Afghanistan (DYOA) Central Committee welcomed the guest delegation to the youth club.

Later on a member of the USSR parliamentary delegation talked about the work and activities of the Soviet Parliament and role of the Soviet youths organisations in realization of the process of reconstruction "perestroyka" in that country.

At the end members of the Soviet Parliament replied to the questions of the participants pertaining to the work and activity of the Parliament and role of the youths in implementation of the new political thinking there.

Holds News Conference in Kabul

LD2801070790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—A high-ranking parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union today participated in a press conference held in the Storey Palace of the RA's [Republic of Afghanistan] Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended by home and foreign journalists.

During the conference, Aleksandr Mokanu, head of the guest delegation briefed journalists on the goals of his visit to the RA. Then he replied to the questions raised by journalists in connection with his visit to Afghanistan and its importance in relations of the two countries. Prospects of relations between the parliaments, all-sided cooperation of the USSR to the RA as well as other issues related to the Afghan issue.

Meets With Najibullah

LD2801071490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] met with the high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Aleksandr Mokanu deputy-chairman of the Parliaments Council of the Union and member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Soviet Communist Party here today. The delegation is here for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the National Assembly of the RA.

A BAKHTAR correspondent report that during the meeting President Najibullah briefed the guest delegation on the politico-military situation in the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), process of realization of the national reconciliation policy as well as friendly relations between the RA and the Soviet Union.

President Najibullah added that in present-day conditions, consolidation and expansion of these relations in all spheres of life including the parliamentary field, exchange of experiences and opinions in the works of parliaments of the two countries are of great significance. We wish and have firmly decided that our relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the interests of peoples of both countries in continuation of Afghan-Soviet friendship would expand and strengthen further in the future as well.

Reciprocally the head of the Soviet delegation while conveying best regards and sincere wishes of M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the people of that country to President

Najibullah, informed him on the process of reconstruction "perestroyka" in the USSR and role of the Soviet Parliament in realization it's goals.

Mokanu added that the USSR Supreme Soviet gives high values to Afghan-Soviet friendly relations. He said the USSR Supreme Soviet as the highest organ of the state power in the Soviet Union considers continuation of Soviet political and moral support and all-sided assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with mutual protocols and agreements, as legal one [as received].

The report adds that while 'Abdul Rahim Hatef, first vice-president of the RA, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives and Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the State of the National Assembly and B.N. Pastukhov, Soviet ambassador to Kabul were present. President Najibullah awarded orders of the April Revolution and medals of the RA to the members of the Soviet high-ranking parliamentary delegation.

Joint Statement Signed

LD2801072190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 27, BAKHTAR—A joint statement on the visit of a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet from the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) was signed between the National Assembly of the RA and the Soviet delegation here today.

A BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent reports that the statement from the Afghan side while Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the Senate of the RA was present, was signed by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives of the RA and from the Soviet side by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the Parliament's Council of the Union and member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Soviet Communist Party and the documents were exchanged.

After the signing of the joint statement Dr. Abawi spoke on the importance of the statement and considered the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation to the RA in connection to consolidation and expansion of the friendly relations between the peoples and parliaments of both countries as another significant step and new page in the relations between the RA and the Soviet Union.

Likewise, Mokanu head of the Soviet delegation talked about the traditional and friendly relations existed between the two countries and regarded tour of the Soviet delegation to the RA and signing of the said document as a valuable and fruitful step towards further expansion of the friendly relations between the two countries as well.

The report adds during the signing ceremony secretaries and executive board of both houses of the parliament a number of deputies of the National Assembly of the RA and B.N. Pastukhov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul were present.

National Assembly Hosts Reception

LD2901072190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—The Soviet high-ranking parliamentary delegation led by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the parliament Council of the Union and member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Soviet Communist Party, participated in a reception arranged on its honour by the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), in the ballroom of the Kabul Hotel Intercontinental last night.

'Abdul Rahim Hatef, first deputy president, Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi and Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speakers of the Houses of Representatives and Senate, Nizamuddin Tahzib, supreme judge, a number of Politburo members and secretaries of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, some deputy prime ministers, a number of encharges [as received] of political and social organisations, a number of ministers, and people's representatives and senators as well as Boris Nikolay Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in the RA also took part in the meeting.

Meets With Ya'qubi

LD2901092990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—Muhammad Ya'qubi, minister without portfolio and chairman of the Association of the Soviet Graduates of Afghanistan met with the high-ranking parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union at the headquarters of the association here today.

During the meeting both sides exchanged views on the expansion of activities of the said associations and the Soviet delegation expressed all-sided cooperation for the training of Afghan cadres and expansion of scientific and mutual relations between the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and the Soviet Union.

Based on another report, the Soviet parliamentary delegation visited the arms and ammunition exhibition opened in one of the organs of the Ministry of State Security of the RA here today.

The responsibilies of the exhibition which unmasks the armed interventions of Pakistan, United States and Saudi Arabia in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, explained the effect and destructive power of the said arms seized from extremists by the government armed forces during operation. A number of deputies from both houses of the parliament of the RA accompanied the Soviet delegation during the visit as well.

Communique on Visit Issued

LD2901095190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 29 Jan 90

["Joint Communique on the Visit of the USSR High-Ranking Parliamentary Delegation to the RA"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—A high-ranking parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union headed by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the parliament's Council of the Union and member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Soviet Communist Party visited the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] from Jan 22-29, 1990, at the invitation of the RA National Assembly.

Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received the guest delegation and informed it on the process of realization of national reconciliation policy. Internal and external aspects of peaceful solution of the Afghan issue and expressed sincere desires and wishes of the state leadership and the Afghan people for the USSR gratis aids in present sensitive historic phase of Afghanistan.

During the meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere. [sentence as received] The sides particularly pointed to the need of consolidation and ever further deepening of friendly and mutually beneficial relations existed between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union based on traditional friendship and existed possibilities emanated from georgraphic neighbourliness, the communique says.

The guest delegation had meetings with Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representative, Dr. Mahmud Habibi speaker of Senate, administrative board and a number of members and members of the commissions of the House of Representatives and Senate of the National Assembly of the RA, 'Abdul Rahim Hatef, first vice-president, and president of the National Front, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, a number of heads of state organs and social and political organizations, representatives of local jergas "councils" and representatives of different strata of people, called a number of enterprises in Kabul city and taveled to Balkh Province.

The parliamentary delegation of the Soviet Union was acquainted with the way of the Afghans life who valiantly struggle for the national sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of their country, the communique says.

During the meeting which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere in the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), the sides emphasized on the role of the higher legislative organs of the two countries in materialisation of new political thinking in relations among states, giving priority to humanistic values, real equality among the members of international community and without exception active participation of the parliaments in safeguarding of peace, security and expansion and strenthening of cooperation among nations, it adds.

The people's representatives of the Soviet parliament informed the Afghan side on perestroyka (reconstruction), basic political changes and socio-economic developments for further provocations and expansion of socialist democracy in the Soviet Union.

The Afghan and Soviet parliamentarians exchanged views on the basic lines of activities of the National Assembly of the RA and the USSR Supreme Soviet. The sides discussed matters related to relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union as well as prospects of their further expansion in future. The sides stressed on the results of the second congress of the people's representatives of the Soviet Union which confirmed the continuation of policy based on political and moral support from the friendly people of Afghanistan and expansion of cooperation with Afghanistan as per the bilateral agreements and contracts reached between them, the communique remarks.

Partitcipants to the talks have also stressed on the necessity of the honest, strict and complete observance of the Geneva accords on the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, by all sides concerened, and on the immediate restoration of peace on the basis of a nation-wide national reconciliation.

They pointed to the role played by the United Nations, especially of its secretary general and as per the resolutions of the UN General Assembly reached with complete understanding as well as extensive authority vested to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to help accelerate political solution of the Afghan problem as well, the communique stresses.

The sides confirmed intention of the two countries for utilization of all possibilities to help political solution of the Afghan issue in the interest of a peaceful future for Afghans.

The RA-USSR parliamentarians demand termination of rocket attacks on the Afghan cities causing large human and material losses to the civilians. A positive response should be given to the wishes of Afghans and other nations in the region for the ensurance of peace, mutual understandings and reconciliation, the communique adds.

The representatives of the RA National Assembly stated that we have fully realised the concern of the Soviet people over the issue of the Soviet prisoners of war (POWS) who are living under the custody of the Afghan extremists. The Afghan side expressed readiness that they will continue their efforts for the searching and return of the USSR POWS.

The parliamentarians of the two countries supported the peaceful initiatives set forth by the RA-USSR leaderships particularly the fresh proposal of President Najibullah for convening an extensive council in the Kabul city with the participation of all political forces inside and outside Afghanistan in the presence of the UN representatives for seeking ways and means for a political solution of the Afghan issue, the communique emphasizes.

The parliamentarians of the both countries with satisfactory pointed out to the tendencies improving world political atmosphere in interests of all nations of the globe.

The sides expressed their full support to the positive process directed to the reduction and gradual annihilition of nuclear weapons arsenals and that of the convenient one according [words indistinct] requirements for the cause of [words indistinct] and cooperation among the world countries, it adds.

The sides unanimously reaffirmed that the achieving of the lofty aspirations of removing backwardness in the developing countries. Establishment and expansion of equal relations with these countries are of world significance.

The members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan voiced their support to the initiatives of the Soviet Union for creating a world void of nuclear weapons, not resorting to forces and democratization of social life and international relations, the communique remarks.

The sides agreed on the continuation of active cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries in all walks of mutual interests in the benefit of the two countries establishment of a peace climate and good neighbourliness in the region.

The Soviet side extended their gratitude to the warm hospitability rendered to them during their stay in Kabul by the Afghan side and wished further unity and oneness of all national and patriotic forces who are in favour of an independent, non-aligned and progressive Afghanistan, and ensurance of peace, prosperity and wellbeing of the Afghan people.

The Soviet high-ranking parliamentary delegation officially invited the Afghan parliamentary delegation to pay a visit to the Soviet Union, which was accepted with thanks by the Afghan side, the communique concludes.

Concludes Visit, Departs 29 Jan

LD2901135490 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT dd

[Text] Kabul, 10 Jan (BAKHTAR)—The high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation, headed by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Mokanu, which had come to Kabul at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan for an official friendly visit, left for the Soviet Union this afternoon.

Deputies of the National Assembly, administrative officials, heads of the National Assembly's international commissions, and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, saw off the delegtion at Kabul international airport.

Najibullah Attends Defense Council Meeting 28 Jan

LD3001095590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 29, BAKHTAR—Sessions of the Higher Council for the Defence of the Country was held on Jan. 28, 1990 at presidential headquarters. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and chairman of the Higher Council for the Defence of the Country attended the session.

The session assessed work and activities of the Ministry of Public Health on situation in hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and offering medical services.

Then Sayyed Amir Zara, minister of the Public Health delivered his report on the activities of the ministry. Later on President Najibullah gave specific tasks to the concerned organs for the improvement of work in this field.

The special commission for the Defence of the Country was also dutified [as received] that along with the Ministry of Public Health all-sidedly assess forgery, hoarding, overcharging and smugging of medicines and medical tools in the country.

Situation of technique and armaments in the armed forces of the RA were also assessed in the session.

President Najibullah, after hearing a report delivered by the responsibles of the technical section of the ministries of the armed forces, issued necessary instructions to concerned organs for the promotion of professional skills of the personnel, convening of seminar, technical and professional conferences, consolidation of discipline, construction of depots, strict and regular calculation of technical affairs, timely repairment of armaments and technical tools and creation of technical parks.

Najibullah Attends Banquet at Indian Embassy

LD2601212290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, attended a banquet at the ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul city this evening on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Republic of India, hosted by Muhammad Hamid al-Ansari, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of that country in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Ratifies Social Organizations Law

LD2801134290 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, 28 Jan (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan in accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 2, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, has ratified the law on social organizations within 4 chapters and 25 articles which was approved by the Council of Ministers, based on the authorities given within Decree No 1489 dated 30 January 1989 on the state of emergency, in Resolution No 181 dated 27 July 1989 of the Council of Ministers.

India

Khan Statement 'Blatant Violation' of Simla

BK3001155890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi has termed the statement of the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, over Radio Pakistan today as a blatant violation of the Simla spirit. Mr Yaqub Khan in his broadcast this evening had repeated Islamabad's stand on Kashmir. Informed sources said that the Pakistan foreign minister has chosen to repeat the old fulmination despite India's firm reaction on his yesterday's statement.

Earlier, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the provisions of the Simla agreement are well known to Pakistan. The spokesman said: We find Mr Yaqub Khan's position unacceptable.

Our correspondent reports that at a dinner hosted for envoys from the Organization of Islamic Conference in Islamabad on Sunday [28 January], the Pakistan foreign minister made provocative comments about the situation in Kashmir.

Army Chief Warns Against Violating Kashmir Line

BK3001160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The chief of Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, has declared that nobody will be allowed to violate the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said that the country's Army is fully prepared to protect the border at any cost.

Replying to a question, the Army chief said that attempts to send armed infiltrators across the border would be severely dealt with. He reiterated that in no case will the country's defense preparedness be allowed to be affected.

External Affairs Minister on Kashmir Problem

BK3101030990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The external affairs minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, has said that the Kashmir problem can be solved through talks in accordance with the Simla Agreement. In an interview to a Gulf-based English daily, Mr Gujral said the Simla Agreement has prescribed the methodology of solving problems. Mr Gujral pointed out that if China and Soviet Union can sort out their problems, there is no reason why India and Pakistan cannot sort out theirs peacefully through negotiations.

He said the era of confrontation is out and the era of cooperation, particularly between neighbors, is in. New Delhi is trying to remove tensions and begin an era of cooperation.

He said it is sad that some elements in Pakistan have chosen not to appreciate our policy, but expressed the hope that this is a passing phase, as a hostile stand toward India will be counterproductive in the long run. He said he is convinced that the people of Pakistan do not want any confrontation with India. [passage omitted]

Upendra: Foreign Reports on Kashmir Exaggerated

BK2801061490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The union information and broadcasting minister, P. Upendra, has said the center has taken a serious note of exaggerated reports being filed on the Kashmir situation by some foreign journalists and broadcasting organizations. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad, Mr Upendra asserted that no foreign journalists had been asked to leave Jammu and Kashmir, though the reports originating from Kashmir on the state's situation were being sought to be presented by the foreign media in a manner that was out of proportion with the reality.

Kashmiri Leader on Western Stand on 'Massacre'

BK2901124490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 29 Jan 90

[By Babar Naqvi]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29 (AFP)—Kashmiri leader Amanullah Khan lashed out Monday at Islamic and Western countries for maintaining silence over the "mass massacre" of Kashmiris in the Indian-held part of Jammu and Kashmir, where Muslim activists have launched a separatist movement.

"This fully exposed their consciencelessness hidden behind their tall claims of adhering to human and humanitarian values," he told a news conference here.

Mr. Khan, chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), said "Indian occupation forces" had killed more than 100 people in Kashmir since early January in what he called a "mass massacre."

Considered by India as the "brain" behind the JKLF, one of the main separatist groups in Indian-held Kashmir, Mr. Khan also criticized Pakistan for not extending full support to the ongoing "freedom movement" of Kashmiri Muslims.

He said he appreciated Iran's condemnation of the killings and called on Teheran to take the issue to the

U.N. Security Council to pressure India to grant the Kashmiris their "right of self determination."

"Pakistan has always used the Kashmir issue at the United Nations for home consumption rather than pleading for Kashmiris," he said. "Pakistan was an unwise friend, who is more dangerous than an enemy.

"An independent Kashmir is in the best interest of Pakistan," he added.

Pakistan administers the western half of the Himalayan state which is called Azad (free) Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Khan described as baseless the claims of Pakistan that it fought two wars with India over Kashmir, which has a Muslim majority. "The wars were never fought for the Kashmir issue," he said.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. A cease-fire line was drawn in the Kashmir valley after the first war in 1948. The United Nations passed a resolution on January 5, 1949 calling for a plebiscite in the Indian-held part of the state.

Mr. Khan also criticized U.S President George Bush and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for saying that Pakistan and India should resolve the issue through bilateral talks according to the 1972 Simla agreement between the two countries.

"India and Pakistan had no right, whatsoever, to decide the future of 12 million Kashmiris ... against their wishes," he said.

"Our objective, national independence" is the slogan of JKLF and is an ideal shared by most youngsters in Azad Kashmir, according to journalists who recently visited the area.

Mr. Khan said that Kashmir was divided into four parts: Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir; Pakistani-controlled Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Northern Gilgit and Baltistan, an area under the direct control of Islamabad on the Soviet and Chinese border; and the 36,850 kilometer (14,000 mile) square Chinese-controlled Aksachin region.

He said Kashmiris wanted the "reunification" of these four regions.

"We are not dumb driven cattle," Mr. Khan said, adding that he also "deeply regretted" Moscow's comment that Kashmir was India's "internal" matter. "We hope that Moscow would adopt a realistic attitude" towards the issue, he said.

Rejecting solutions to the issue put forth under the Simla agreement and U.N. resolutions, Mr. Khan vowed to continue JKLF's struggle "on political (and) diplomatic fronts, besides the armed struggle in Indian-held territory, until the Kashmiris' forcibly divided homeland was reunified and emerged as a fully sovereign and independent country."

Kashmir Situation 'Peaceful'; Curfew Eased

BK3101084990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in different towns of the Kashmir valley, where curfew was relaxed for varying periods, today remained peaceful. In Srinagar, curfew has been relaxed for 11 hours from 0500 this morning. Shops and business establishments are open, and public transport is plying normally. State and central government offices are functioning.

According to an official spokesman, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the 7 days. Army and paramilitary forces, however, continue to patrol the streets in Srinagar city and are guarding vital installations.

Two deputy inspectors general of police are being appointed for Baramula and Anantnag. Special commissioners have already been appointed for these areas. Delegations from various parts of the valley have been meeting the governor, Mr Jag Mohan, to assure him of their cooperation.

Swiss Bank Accounts Frozen in Bofors Case

BK2701040490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Swiss Government has frozen the bank accounts of AE Services and (Swenska) Incorporated and certain individuals identified by the codenames of Lotus, Tulip, and (Moblan), who were named in a case filed by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] in connection with the Bofors gun deal.

A CBI spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the accounts were frozen at the request of the CBI. The accounts would remain frozen till investigations into the case are completed. He said CBI could now send a formal request through a special judge for getting investigation done in Switzerland to obtain the names of the beneficiaries of the accounts named in the FIR [first information report].

An AP report quoting Justice Ministry statement in Berne said the accounts were frozen at the request of a high-level Indian delegation that called on the federal police office on Wednesday. It said the frozen accounts are suspected by the Indian investigators of holding commission money paid by Sweden's Bofors arms manufactures. The accounts of the banks in Geneva and Zurich. [sentence as heard]

The statement said a previous Indian request for judicial assistance in the case last February could not be acted on because it referred only to suspected tax law violations by an Indian middleman, as such violations are not a criminal offense under Swiss law. It said the new request also cites suspected bribery of civil servants and forgery. This meets the Swiss legal requirement that legal aid must be granted only if the alleged offense is also punishable in Switzerland.

Mauritian Prime Minister Leaves Delhi for Lucknow

BK2701101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Mauritius prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, was given a ceremonial send-off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today when he left for Lucknow. He was seen off by the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and his cabinet colleagues. Mr Jugnauth was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in the capital.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Jugnauth said his visit gave him an opportunity to strengthen the existing relations.

The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, said that Mr Jugnauth's visit gave concrete shape in specific areas of cooperation. About Mr Jugnauth's invitation to him to visit Mauritius, Mr Singh said that he will visit that country some time this year.

Mr Jugnauth will visit Varanasi, Calcutta, Bangalore, and Madras before leaving for home on 31st of this month.

'Left Parties' Concerned Over Planned Temple

BK2801125290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the CPI [Communist Party of India] have expressed concern over the decision of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to start construction of the temple at the disputed site of Ayodhya on the 14th of next month. In separate statements in New Delhi, the left parties have appealed to the people to build up public opinion to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Naxalites Kidnap 3 Policemen in Andhra Pradesh

BK2901035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group kidnapped three police officials at Arappalli in Nizamabad District yesterday. The Naxalites are demanding the return of their four colleagues arrested by the police recently.

Naxalites Kidnap 8 Persons in Andhra Pradesh

BK3101031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group have kidnapped eight more persons, including a Mandal Praja Parishad [rural council] president, in Karimnagar District yesterday. In a daring daytime attack, 10 armed Naxalites took them away when they were participating in a meeting. The Naxalites have demanded the release of their colleague, Janardan, within 48 hours. Later, the Naxalites released two hostages.

Meanwhile, the director general of police has clarified in a press note that the police have not arrested the Naxalite Janardan, who himself wrote to newspapers stating that he has not been arrested. It may be recalled that the Naxalites kidnapped four police officials on Sunday [28 January].

In another incident, a district educational officer was kidnapped in East Godavari District yesterday when he was inspecting a residential school in the forest area.

Iran

Guardians Council Approves Amended 5-Year Plan

LD3101114790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Correspondent Ja'fari's report on the 31 January Majles proceedings; live or recorded]

[Text] In this morning's open session of the Majles which was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Karrubi, the bill about the first plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran which had been returned by the Guardians' Council was discussed. Deputies approved some of the amendments regarding 18 notes. On the basis of one of the amended notes, for the sake of providing sufficient housing for the people with affordable rents and for the sake of paving the way for the construction of sufficient housing units for rent, the government is dutybound to provide proper legal and financial facilities to appropriate specialized and professional organizations [tashakkolha-ye monaseb-e takhassosi va senfi] which will be organized in the form of shareholding and cooperative companies for this purpose. According to note 27, in giving any kind of work permit and license to all the applicants for productive, service, and professional activities in all economic sectors priority should be given to those who passed special courses in technical and professional training at the required levels.

According to note 45, the government is dutybound to provide necessary facilities for the return of those Iranian students who have graduated from foreign universities who are willing to serve in the universities and institutes of higher learning and research centers, after the approval of their qualifications for membership in the academic staff. The government can exempt from customs duties and charges the usual household goods which these people bring with them. In note 47 it is said: The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, and Hygiene, Treatment, and Medical Training are allowed, during the duration of the plan, to invite non-Iranian members of academic staff from foreign countries, by giving priority to their being Muslims, purely for teaching in doctorate courses.

According to note 49, the universities and institutes of higher learning and research centers can, during the duration of the plan, organize evening and special courses and can receive the cost of such courses from those volunteering for studying in those countries, with the approval of the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Hygiene, Treatment, and Medical Training, and can use such funds for appropriate university expenses.

At the end of the investigation of these 18 notes, the amendments were again returned to the Guardians Council, and the Guardians Council approved all the amendments except note 21. Note 21 was once again discussed in the open session of the Majles nd after investigation it was eliminated. In this way the bill on the first plan on economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran received final approval.

'Voice of Freedom' on Party Resignations in Baku

LD3001120290 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Ardabil, East Azarbayjan, Jan. 30, IRNA—Over 200,000 residents of Baku, capital city of the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, have withdrawn membership of the Communist Party in the wake of the Soviet military action in the city.

The Azeri service of the Europe-based "Voice of Freedom," monitored here, in its Monday night program said that despite the plea of a high-ranking official calling for support for the Communist Party, people from all over Azerbaijan are withdrawing from the party.

Several famous figures including Sheykh ol-Eslam, Pashazadeh, a Muslim scholar in Caucasus, and Bakhtiar Vahabzadeh, Muslim Azeri writer and poet, are among those who have withdrawn their membership.

Meanwhile, a group of Azeris in a contact with the radio strongly condemned the Sunday night program of Baku Television in which leaders of the Soviet Azerbaijan Popular Front were accused of involvement in the recent massacre in Baku. Those who contacted the radio reiterated their support for the leaders of the Popular Front.

Majles Deputy Blames U.S. for Azerbaijan Unrest

LD2901134190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Majles held an open session yesterday. During this session Mr Hasan Aminlu, deputy from Shabestar, was one of the pre-agenda speakers. He began his remarks by saying: The declaration of martial law, the harsh treatment of the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan by the Red Army, and the killing and wounding of great numbers of innocent Muslims in Baku and other cities of Soviet Azerbaijan, which no doubt have deeply distressed the world's Muslims, are not issues which can be ignored easily and with indifference. The plots and conspiracies of global arrogance created another sad tragedy once again and contaminated the pages of mankind's history. This is a conspiracy of the same magnitude as the problems of Lebanon and Palestine, the Iraqi-imposed war, and many other disasters, the details of which would lengthen my speech. All these disasters are scenarios written and directed by global arrogance, led by the arch-Satan, the criminal United States.

Behind the events of Soviet Azerbaijan we see America's dirty hands and ugly face. The United States, directly and indirectly and by using its agents and propaganda mouthpiece, is instilling doubts into the people's minds. Sometimes by raising ethnic issues such as Azeri-Armenian differences, sometimes by instilling such ideas as the unification of northern and southern Azerbaijan, and through thousands of false and doubtful ideas, it leads the Soviet leaders into making errors. It prevents the natural course of events through false confirmations and denials. It is with the deepest regret that we see the Soviet leadership being influenced in this way. This reminds us of the phrase used by his holiness the imam, may God bless his soul, that the United States has deceived the Soviet Union, too.

News Reports, Policy on Azerbaijan Differentiated

LD2601063790 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran has reported that Mr Naser Nobari, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic to Moscow, last night met with the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and delivered to him a message from Mr Velayati for Mr Shevardnadze.

In this message, while laying emphasis on noninterference in the affairs of others, Dr Velayati has explicitly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports all world Muslims and has urged the the Soviet foreign minister to abstain from using violence against the Muslim people of Azerbaijan.

The news on the delivery of message of Mr Velayati to the Soviet officials made us, in this political commentary, to place emphasis on the distinction between news and official diplomacy.

Our dear listeners know well that as far as the foreign relations of every country are concerned, the foreign ministry is its official spokesman. In the Islamic Iran too, the Foreign Ministry is the spokesman for the foreign policy of our Islamic system and indeed everybody knows that in a country whose officials are elected with a direct vote of people and without any foreign intervention, whatever the Foreign Ministry states, is the demand and the manifestation of the people's will. Hence [words indistinct] observe that during the past couple of weeks our ambassador in Moscow has frequently held conversations with our Foreign Ministry in Tehran and also with the Soviet officials and on every occasion he has warned the Soviet Government not to exercise violence against the Muslim people of Azerbayjan. Such [words indistinct] action is by no means intervention in the international affairs of any country.

Such contacts mean that the foreign policy of the revolutionary Iran emanates from the will and the aspiration of the people. [passage omitted]

Foreign linked stations that broadcast Farsi language programs and also newspapers, without any feeling of responsibility, are trying to interpret this expression of sympathy toward the Muslim nation of Azerbaijan, in which we do not say anything except news about their innocence, as interference in the internal affairs of a country.

Hereby we declare that, the Foreign Ministry is the official spokesman, and the world news organs are duty-bound to fulfill their obligation which is to communicate the events.

In any case, distinction between journalism and official diplomacy is not all that difficult. And if anybody or any individual confuses these two, it is due to lack of knowledge.

Bandar-e Anzali, Baku Shipping Activity Resumes

LD2901174690 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Rasht (Gilan), Jan. 29, IRNA—Shipping activities between the Caspian port-cities of Bandar-e Anzali and Baku were resumed last night when a wheat-laden vessel berthed at the Iranian port. Cargo ships stopped sailing between the two port cities following the recent unrest in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Before the outbreak of clashes in Azerbaijan, some ten cargo ships used to dock at Bandar-e Anzali.

Editorial on Islamic Revival in Soviet Azerbaijan

NC2601062590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today the contemporary world is witnessing nations returning to religion. It is seeing a massive renaissance among the Muslim nations and the Muslims of the world to protect their Islamic identity. This is not a simple or coincidental phenomenon. It is a great historical phenomenon with dimensions far greater than can be perceived in all corners of the globe today. This is a grand, deeprooted movement which has inspired a fervor among nations and has mobilized them for a revival of their Islamic identity.

The recent events in Soviet Azerbaijan are an indication of the pure sentiments by Muslims in reviving their Islamic identity. One billion Muslims in the world have focused their tearful eyes with intense eagerness on the other side of the fortified boundary so that they might see what the Soviet Muslims have endured during 70 years of brainwashing by the Communists! [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslims' cause, has called on the Soviet authorities to exercise restraint and has warned them against any inappropriate action against the pure sentiments of the Soviet Muslims. [passage omitted]

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Views Azerbaijan Situation

NC2801173690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Stalin's Path?"]

[Text] The situation in Soviet Azerbaijan is critical. Reports speak of dire and regrettable conditions and reveal that many bloody incidents are in the making.

Moscow has stated that the Soviet armed and security forces were sent to Soviet Azerbaijan to save lives, prevent chaos, and establish order and security. However, reports received indicate that the first victims of this effort by Moscow were the Azerbaijani people themselves. Some reports put the number of victims at 3,500. This figure may be exaggerated, but the TASS report claiming that no one was hurt during the recent widespread shooting by the Soviet armed and security forces in Baku appears to be similarly untrue.

The Soviet people are in a transition phase. The past difficult conditions and the absolute rule of the Communist Party are described as intolerable even in remarks by Soviet officials.

The Kremlin leadership has promised the Soviet people that it will undertake fundamental reform which will create a new atmosphere. It has promised them an open atmosphere where human beings will feel free and will not be forced to set aside their religious beliefs. It has promised an atmosphere where nations and nationalities will be able to live beside one other in peace.

Moscow had made sastisfactory progress toward this end, and Mr Gorbachev removed one obstacle after another with his measures and special policy. He responded with deeds to the criticism from the conservative factions, which did not understand that the gravity of the situation was caused by the Soviet system itself and did not take the situation seriously. He showed he knows what he wants, what he is doing, and what he should do. He and the cadres faithful to him first tried to improve the negative face of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. They ended the Red Army's aggression against Afghanistan and later described this aggression as a "big mistake" and even condemned it. They condemned the military expeditions by the Warsaw Pact armies to Czechoslovakia and the bloody incidents during the "Prague Spring." They created favorable conditions for the formation and growth of freedom- and independence-seeking movements in Eastern Europe and even encouraged them. They brought developments to such a point that with the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, the West replaced its subdued encouragement and praise with great awe at what was happening on the other side of wall.

On the domestic scene, Mr Gorbachev showed that he wanted to solve problems with more patience and self-possession. In the case of Lithuania, he personally went there and started face-to-face talks with the Lithuanians and, convinced that they were speaking logically and acceptably, he even accepted the introduction of a multiparty system in the Soviet Union despite earlier opinions he had expressed.

In the case of Azerbaijan, however, the Kremlin leadership became impatient and resorted to arms very quickly in order to stifle the cries. What is the reason for this double standard by the Kremlin leadership? In the case of Lithuania, Mr Gorbachev went there personally, held discussions with people there, and adopted new decisions. In the case of Azerbaijan, however, developments adopted a military and violent face in a matter of only a few days.

There is no doubt that the Soviet people, whatever their nationality, have suffered from pressures inflicted by communist rule for the past 70 years. At the same time it is clear that all of them have not suffered to the same extent from the conditions that prevailed. Mr Gorbachev and the cadres faithful to him know very well that the "allocations" from the resources and budgets of the Soviet Union to the Asian republics, and especially the Muslim-inhabited republics, have never been and never will be the same as those to the European Soviet republics. In other words, all the Soviet people have been subjected to oppression for the past 70 years, but the people of the Muslim-inhabited republics have been subjected to more oppression than others.

The standards of living and development in the Muslim-inhabited republics cannot be compared with the standards prevailing in the Soviet Union's European republics. The pressures inflicted on the people of the Muslim-inhabited republics have had a religious dimension and every type of harsh method has been used in the fight against religion. Naturally, the creation of new conditions and an atmosphere in which oppression and deprivation are spoken about means those who have been the most deprived and the most oppressed will have more unsaid things to say and will certainly want to cry out more loudly about the oppression to which they have been subjected. The Kremlin leadership certainly must understand this and try to imagine the feelings of a people who were subjected to 70 years of efforts to wipe out their religious identity.

Such feelings may turn into an effervescent fountain from which sentiments may overflow and might even adopt the face of a "rebellion." This is not unnatural. There may be some who will try to exploit the situation and even push the incidents to unwanted and deviatory points. But this can never be considered a justification for crushing popular feelings and commiting massacres. Moscow's wish to establish order and security and to prevent chaos is understandable. But the point is that there are wiser and less dangerous ways of doing this. Such measures might take more time, but they will certainly be more reliable and win more support.

Naturally, Moscow should be able to prevent unwanted and unfavorable incidents. But logic demands that this be done through correct steps and policies so that the blood of innocent people will not be shed and people who have been "crushed" by communism for 70 years are not "crushed" under tanks now.

The Soviet Union has seen many leaders. Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and now Mr Gorbachev have been among the outstanding figures of this era. Opinions about Kremlin leaders have undergone changes. Stalin was once praised but is now rejected. Even officials have started to condemn Stalin's path. The symbol of Stalin's policy was a "bloody dagger" and this policy is now condemned in the Soviet Union. However, are the recent incidents in Azerbaijan not the beginning of a new phase of the rule of the bloody dagger in the Soviet Union?

The difference between Mr Gorbachev and the former Kremlin leaders lies in the fact that he has the courage to express his views and make correct decisions. He has bravely announced that the path of the past Kremlin leaders was wrong. The Kremlin fought against the people's beliefs for 70 years and this was wrong. The current leadership in Moscow wants to bring about fundamental change, but it seems that it has once again risen to fight the Soviet people; this is regrettable.

If Soviet Muslims carry portraits of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, shout "God is great," and come to this side to attend Friday prayers, this is a show of solidarity in belief among Muslims. If this is gradually put on a correct course, it will not harm national issues, bilateral relations, and border security.

Has Moscow considered the propaganda repercussions of the Baku massacre? Had the massacre of Soviet citizens taken place in a European republic, the West would have considered the Kremlin leadership to be continuing along Stalin's path. Had a similar incident taken place with non-Muslim people, the West would be speaking of "bloody perestroyka" and the defeat of "glasnost." Today, the West, in its propaganda and government statements, is encouraging the Kremlin leadership to commit further massacres of Muslims and reimpose reppressive conditions in the Muslim-inhabited republics of the Soviet Union.

The West knows that the world's Muslims, and especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, are sensitive about the fate of Soviet Muslims and the recent incidents in Soviet Azerbaijan. The West is probably following the improvement of Tehran-Moscow relations with concern and dissatisfaction and it is trying to push Moscow toward more massacres and more negative acts in a bid to affect Iran-USSR relations in general. This is something that Moscow can avoid.

Karrubi Comments on Hijacking, Monafeqin

LD2801102390 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Sunday called on Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, a U.N. human rights investigator currently in Iran, to further identify the terroristic nature of the monafeqin (outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation).

Speaking at today's open session of the Majles, Karrubi said: "We notify representatives of the human rights committee, the U.N. and all other groups who are investigating human rights issue in Iran, to further become acquainted with the dirty and terroristic nature of the monafeqin."

Karrubi was referring to an aborted attempt to hijack an Iran Air passenger plane on Thursday night and lauded the efforts of the flight security guards and the pilot in foiling the attempt.

Four armed hijackers were killed in a mid-air shootout as they attempted to hijack a Boeing 727 on Shiraz-Bandar-e 'Abbas route.

The spokesman of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Alireza Afshar told Tehran Radio that the hijackers, taking a flight attendant hostage, had said they would carry out their threats if the plane did not change its direction towards either Iraq or Israel. No passenger was hurt in the incident.

Mojahedin Denies Involvement

NC2801172190 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 28 (AFP)—The People's Mojahedin, [Mojahedin-e Khalq] an Iraq-based resistance group opposed to the Iranian Government, denied Sunday that it had any connection with an attempt last week to hijack an Iranian airliner.

The group in a statement here described as "lies" accusations made earlier in the day by Iranian parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, who said the People's Mojahedin had tried to hijack the Iran Air Boeing 727 on a domestic flight last Thursday.

Security guards in a mid-air shootout killed four gunmen who had taken a crew member hostage and demanded that the plane be flown to either Iraq or Israel, according to Tehran Radio.

The People's Mojahedin said it "opposed airline hijackings or any other operation that endangered the lives of innocent people."

UN Human Rights Official Pohl Visits Majles

LD2801143190 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—The U.N. Human Rights Commission envoy Reynaldi Galindo Pohl conferred with head of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani as well as deputies of religious minorities, in the parliament here today. The Salvadorean lawyer was briefed on how the Islamic Consultative Assembly works, the method of elections and people's representation at the parliament.

Khorasani also answered questions posed by Pohl and his entourage.

Deputies of the Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian minorities in the Majles also elaborated on the method of the elections, and said that all parliamentary members enjoy equal rights as representatives of Iranian people, and are therefore responsible to the whole nation.

The minority MPs enlightening Pohl on the absence of any kind of discrimination, expressed hoped that he would reflect the realities of his visit.

RESALAT on Human Rights

NC2901161690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary from the "Foreign Politics" column: "A New Test for the Human Rights Commission"]

[Text] Reports state that Mr Galindo Pohl, a representative of the UN Human Rights Commission, is to arrive in Tehran soon on an 8-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. There have been no direct contacts between the

Human Rights Commission and Islamic Iran. This delegation will be visiting Iran for the first time, and this is why this year the UN Human Rights Commission did not issue a resolution against Iran. In the past few years, decisions by that international forum on the state of freedom and human rights in our country were based on the views of counterrevolutionary and terrorist groups abroad. This has left a very bad impression on the record of the Human Rights Commmission. Galindo Pohl's visit to Iran will be a new test of the UN Human Rights Commission's activities so that it can end spiteful stands and remove the atmosphere of mistrust. Mr Galindo Pohl should study matters without any prejudice and without being guided by any wrong implications from abroad. He should try to understand our conditions, which are not understood beyond the borders of Iran. No judgment will be correct if it does not consider the legal and judicial system of Islam and the implementation of this system. In Islamic Iran, on the basis of the Constitution, Islam is the official religion of the country and Islamic teachings are implemented throughout this territory. This can be understood if a little attention is paid to the general principles involved. It is by considering these teachings and the laws reflecting them that one can judge human rights in Iran. There is no need for the rules of Islamic law that are implemented in Iran to be in conformity with the contents of the World Declaration of Human Rights. This delegation can act in such a way so that this visit will not be its last visit to Iran.

Flag of Freedom Radio on Visit

TA2501173190 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, special UN human rights committee investigator, met yesterday with Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the Freedom Movement. At this meeting, violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic and the restrictions the regime is imposing on the Freedom Movement were reviewed and discussed.

Authorities of the Islamic Republic regime did not allow Reynaldo Galindo Pohl to meet and talk with relatives of Dr Mozafar Baqa'i-Kermani and Dr Kazem Sami.

UN Representative Holds Talks With UN Chief

LD3001094990 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 30, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations met with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday and discussed latest developments in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

During the meeting, Kharrazi urged the Security Council to take measures for the implementation of the Resolution 598. He stressed that the Security Council should support the secretary general firmly and provide him with the factors needed for the rapid and unconditional implementation of all the articles of the resolution.

The Iranian envoy stressed that the 41st paragraph of Perez de Cuellar's report specified the priorities (troop withdrawal and exchange of POWs) and that the Security Council should take steps to prevent setting forth of issues out of the framework of the resolution in the peace talks.

Meanwhile, Kharrazi submitted Perez de Cuellar a letter in which he referred to the humanitarian costs of the no war-no peace situation resulting from Iraq's noncompliance with the Resolution 598 and secretary general's implementation plans.

In his letter, Kharrazi said that the anguish and sorrow inflicted upon the two nations is now being prolonged by Iraq's refusal to implement the resolution when POWs could return to their families and refugees to their homes.

"In addition to POWs, more than 16,117 families comprising 84,751 innocent civilians including women and children whose homes, towns and villages are at present under physical and active occupation of Iraqi forces are refugees in their own country," the letter said.

It added that the refugees who had nothing to do with the war were innocent victims of the Iraqi occupation of their homes.

Another 1,431,066 displaced civilians have been unable to return to their homes because of the proximity of Iraqi frontline forces to their municipalities, the letter mentioned adding that it did not intend to address the problems of this group.

"The intransigent policy and the procrastinating approach employed by the Iraqi officials are indeed robbing the POWs of their freedom and liberty, and the refugees of their dignity, integrity and the right to return to their homes and lands," it said.

The letter considered the Iraqi regime responsible for the continued captivity of the POWs and the homelessness of tens of thousands of Iranian civilians "which is by no means a less humanitarian issue than the former."

A political decision by Iraqi authorities to respect resolution 598 and to implement it in accordance with the secretary general's plans which will bring durable and just settlement between the two countries could easily reverse the sufferings of the POWs and refugees.

The letter also included a list of Iranian villages, townships and areas under active Iraqi occupation.

The list said that some 2,663 sq. kms of Iranian territory with a population of 84,751 people and 16,117 families were under Iraqi occupation at present.

It said that 756 sq. kms of Bakhtaran Province with 49,578 people and 9,109 families (52 villages), 1,294 sq.

kms of Ilam Province with 34,443 people and 6,853 families (28 villages), 542 sq. kms of Khuzestan Province with 930 people and 155 families (four villages), 63 sq. km of heights without villages in Kordestan and eight sq. kms of heights without villages in West Azarbayjan Province were under Iraqi occupation.

Musaviyan Sees 'Change' in W. Europe Ties

LD3001104990 Hamburg DPA in German 0954 GMT 30 Jan 90

[by DPA Correspondent Klaus Bering]

[Text] Tehran (DPA)—Iran sees a clear change in relations with Western Europe. "The era of tensions is coming to an end." Hoseyn Musaviyan, head of the Western Europe Department at the Tehran Foreign Ministry, said in a DPA interview (on Monday). "Our relations with the majority of Western European states are improving. The FRG takes a special place in this for it is our most important economic partner in Europe."

Musaviyan also said in the interview that the conflict over the call to murder the British-Indian author Salman Rushdie ("The Satanic Verses") is practically settled. The boycott announced by the EC in early 1989 on visits by and contacts between ministers has had very little effect. What is more, the EC countries today appear to see their open-ended decision rather as an obstacle. Musaviyan said: "There are meetings between ministers and vice-ministers, high-ranking meetings on the sideines of the UN, and even direct contacts between ministers."

The "death sentence" on Rushdie, pronounced by the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, has, in Musaviyan's view, not been rescinded. "This is an Islamic order and millions of Muslims are bound by it." The high-ranking Iranian diplomat however made it clear that Tehran observes international law and international norms of conduct. "Even if Iran is fully and totally duty-bound to the principles of Islam, this does not mean interference in internal affairs or violation of international law or international rules."

Iran Supports German Unity

Musaviyan said that the Iranian leadership welcomes the changes in Eastern Europe, since in this way an independent, free and powerful Europe will emerge. Anyone opposing the German efforts for national unity is acting meaninglessly and illogically. The disappearance of Marxism-Leninism confirms Islam's claim as the true fighter against imperialism. On relations with the United States Musaviyan said: "Iran's general political strategy allows us to maintain good relations with all Western states, with the exception of the United States."

Musaviyan assessed positively the 3-day visit by a German economic delegation headed by the secretary of state of the Economics Ministry, Dieter von Wuerzen, which ended on Monday. Von Wuerzen also met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran. "This visit has 'upgraded' relations," he said.

At the end of last year, Bonn expanded Iran's credit line (in addition to the credits of DM20 million for each individual project) by a global credit of DM500 million over a period of up to 5 years. The Iranian leadership praises this as a positive contribution to a further improvement in relations.

Official in Paris To Resolve 'Financial Disputes'

LD2601202690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry under secretary who is in Paris in order to resolve the Irano-France financial disputes through discussions, yesterday met and conferred with French first Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Scheer.

According to the Central News Unit in Paris, the two sides, while attempting to resolve the two countries' financial disputes, and discussed international and regional issues. UN Resolution 598, and the Iraqi obstructionism toward its implementation was also discussed in the meeting.

Commercial Restrictions Lifted

LD2601203290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Our country's deputy mines and metals minister, who is visiting Paris at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation, met this morning with the French foreign trade minister.

According to a Paris Central News Unit report, it was announced at the meeting that restrictions concerning the issuance of guarantees for French commercial transactions with, and foreign investments in Iran, have been lifted [passage omitted]

Talks in Paris Conclude

NC2701073890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The most recent round of talks between Iran and France designed to solve the financial problems between the two countries ended in Paris yesterday. The Central News Unit reports French officials as saying that the talks between Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi and Francois Scheer, director general of the French Foreign Ministry, were satisfactory and that these talks will probably continue in Tehran.

Commentary on Economic Ties

LD2701152790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The latest round of Irano-French talks on settlement of financial disputes between the two countries concluded in Paris yesterday. So far, four rounds of these talks have been held; the talks represent practical efforts by Tehran and Paris on final settlement of the financial disputes between the two countries. The disputes concern the repayment of the last installment of the $1 billion loan extended by Iran to URIDIF [French company contracted to build nuclear reactors in Iran].

At the end of the recent round of talks, the two sides refrained from mentioning details of the agreements reached; they only said the talks made good progress and that possibly they would continue later in Tehran.

Meanwhile, at the time of the visit to France by our country's deputy foreign minister, the two sides exchanged views on political issues of mutual interest, such as the trend of talks on the final enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 598, as well as the situation in Soviet Azerbaijan.

The visit of our country's deputy foreign minister to Paris was in return for the recent visit to Tehran of the secretary general [title as heard] of the French Foreign Ministry. In the said talks, which have so far been followed up for several rounds in Tehran and Paris, the two sides try to find an agenda for the final settlement of financial disputes. Toward that end, so far France has repaid two installments of Iran's $1 billion loan; the two installments amounting to $63 million [figures as heard]. Efforts continue for the repayment of the last installment of the loan and the accrued interest. In this connection meanwhile, claims by several French companies are at issue. These are French companies whose activities were closed down in Iran after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Tehran-Paris relations, which have experienced many ups and downs during recent years, have been for some time on the path of slow but sustained improvement. Apart from the expansion of economic and commercial ties within a bilateral framework is gradually attaining its true position. French economic relations with Iran, especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution, have always been subject to political relations between Tehran and Paris. France, at one time considered a major trading partner, lost her economic status in Iran because of the political encounters of the two countries, which extended to full severing of relations.

In any case, since resumption of relations between Tehran and Paris last year, and with the thaw in political antagonism, ground is gradually being prepared for the expansion of economic relations. Over this period, in addition to the lifting of the embargo by Iran on French companies and banks, the French companies have also lifted their embargo on the purchase of Iranian oil.

Meanwhile, the trading and technical teams' visits to Tehran and Paris form another side of Iran-France ties. In this connection, last week our country's deputy minister of mines and metals had talks for several days with several officials of the French Ministry of Industries, as well as a number of major French companies. His talks were especially in the fields of steel, aluminium, and copper.

Yet, despite the evident warmth in relations between Tehran and Paris, there are aspects to these ties which must be considered—the most obvious of these is the commitment of the Islamic Republic to the provisions, principles, and stances of the Islamic revolution.

10-Year Arms Agreement Allegedly Signed With PRC

TA3001173490 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic has signed a 10-year agreement with the PRC for the purchase of arms and military know-how. This agreement was signed on Sunday, 21 January, by the Islamic Republic's Defense Minister and General Jiang Xua. Reports indicate that following the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu's regime in Romania the Islamic Republic has shown greater interest in the purchase of arms from the PRC and North Korea.

Khamene'i Receives Friday Prayers Leaders

LD3001191990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic revolution and guardian of the Muslims, this morning received the new members of the council and the executive team of the country's Friday prayers leaders' central secretariat.

At the meeting His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i paid tribute to the services of the Friday prayers leaders' central secretariat's former members. He stressed the importance of the heavy responsibility of secretariat members. He said: The leadership of Friday prayers in an Islamic country is an institution similar to the country's political and executive organs. Therefore, it requires sustained communication, and it needs to benefit from one center. That is the reason for the appointment of Friday prayers as one of the authorities and rights of the guardian of the Muslims. Friday prayer leaders, in turn, through an organized entity, communicate with the guardian of the Muslims.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed that the management of such a great entity requires a strong, powerful and thoughtful center, which should be able to devise political, cultural and social policies and to connect the entity to the guardian of the Muslims. He graciously added: Praise be to God, among the Friday prayers leaders there are many knowledgeable and great individuals who have longstanding reputations as strugglers and who are fully familiar with the importance and sensitivity of the task. In conclusion the guardian of the Muslims stressed the importance of a speedy compilation of executive rules and regulations and the precise definition of the council's duties and the executive team of the central secretariat. He said: The esteemed Friday prayers leaders throughout the country must consider the central secretariat as a trustworthy forum and cooperate fully, sincerely, and continuously with that secretariat.

According to the same report, members of the Friday prayers leaders' central secretariat council, after their meeting with the esteemed leader of the revolution, convened their first meeting. After debate, 14 articles of the internal rules and regulations concerning the council's meetings were ratified.

According to the same report, at the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Hashem Rasuli was appointed as secretary; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Abd-al-Majid Iravani was appointed as vice secretary, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Qasi-Asgar was appointed secretariat officer.

Khamene'i Speaks on Importance of IRGC

LD2701204290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, in a speech addressed to representatives of the Supreme Jurisconsult offices in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] of the country's provincial capitals, districts, and regions, reiterated the importance of maintaining faith, Islamic knowledge, and piety among the IRGC forces. He graciously remarked: Under the shadow of spiritual training and management, the IRGC must enhance their spiritual accomplishments, thereby safeguarding the pious image of the Guards in people's minds.

During the meeting, the leader of the Islamic revolution, in remarks addressed to those present, while stressing that the combination of knowledge and action in human beings who are not content with the mere pursuit of the path of religious knowledge, but who also tread on highly sensitive and constructive paths, with constant success, is an honor, graciously said: The IRGC is a military force whose durability and strength is closely knit to the durability and strength of the system, since if that force remains strong and robust, in accordance with normal criteria, there will be no cause for concern with regard to the durability and strength of the revolution. With the existence of a faithful, sincere and self- sacrificing military force, as well as a totally revolutionary outlook, and with a power as mighty as that of the popular mobilization forces, there will be no reason for concern over any threats such as those received by the enemies of Islam and the revolution. That, in fact, is the very philosophy of existence and the true meaning of the IRGC.

The commander in chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces added: Consequently, if such a force fails to know and practice its Islamic obligation, it will be rendered void of such dignity and distinctions. Therefore, the significant task of the IRGC is that every member of the guards force, from all ranks, should enhance his degree of religious belief, knowledge, and piety, and under the shadow of spiritual training and management increase his knowledge of the Koran, prophetic teachings [hadith], and Islamic concepts, while paying heed to practical acts of worship, so as to enhance his spiritual accomplishments.

Concluding his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the main duty of the office of the representatives of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC as that of combining knowledge with action, in that force, and graciously said: The task of reforming knowledge and action and maintenance of direction in the IRGC is an elementary task similar to the presence of a soul within the body. Thus, the offices of the representatives of the supreme jurisconsult should maintain an active and continuous presence in all sections of that force, and carry out their obligations through sincere cooperation with the Guards' commanders, and without interference in each others affairs.

The same report notes that prior to the remarks delivered by the great leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC, after introducing those present, submitted a report on the activities of those offices to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and expressed the hope that the IRGC, as the backbone of the country's armed forces, would manage to please God through exact adherence to the commands of the commander in chief of the armed forces.

Majles Passes Salary Bill for Working Students

LD2801114590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The Majles held an open session today. Our correspondent, Dehqan-pur has compiled a report on the proceedings of today's open session of the Majles: [passage omitted]

Then the Majles turned its attention to the day's agenda, and the report from the first consultation of the Budget and Planning Organization, in connection with the rejection of the bill on granting permission to pay a salary to those students serving in the executive organizations, as apprentices. After review and debate by the deputies, the generalities of the bill were ratified.

Continuing the session, 67 deputies submitted an urgent draft on measures to prevent the destruction of the sayings and writings of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted into paradise—the which was ratified due to its urgency. [passage omitted]

Velayati Meets Leader of Lebanon's Islamic Amal

LD2701170390 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Islamic Amal leader and prominent member of Lebanon's Hizballah, Husayn al-Musavi, today met the Iranian foreign minister to discuss the political situation in his homeland including the Amal-Hizballah dispute.

'Ali Akbar Velayati replied that the Islamic Republic feels concerned about the well being of Muslims throughout the world, and said that it will be in the interest of all Muslim groups in Lebanon to resolve their differences as soon as they can.

He also expressed hope that the two Muslim groups would shortly pool their total resources for fighting against the common enemy, the illegal Zionist entity.

Reportage on Islamic Thought Conference

Dignitaries Arrive for Meeting

NC2701095690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Thought Conference is to be held at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel from tomorrow until 4 February. The theme of the conference will be the ideas of Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul.

The Central News Unit reports that during the conference, which will be held in the presence of a number of domestic religious-political dignitaries and 220 foreign scholars and 'ulema, the various aspects of his eminence the imam's ideas will be studied. Plots hatched by American-style Islam and the role of Wahhabi propaganda will be among the other topics which will be analyzed during the conference.

Another group of foreign participants from India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Australia, Lebanon, and Syria arrived in Tehran last night and were welcomed by officials of the Islamic Propagation Organization.

Imam Bukhari, New Delhi's Friday imam, said in an interview with our correspondent after his arrival in Tehran last night that studying the thoughts and ideas of Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, is a must and a solution to the problems of the world's Muslims. He emphasized the need for the international unity of Muslims. The imam of the New Delhi congregation mosque added: Under current conditions, the resources of the world's Muslims should be directed toward searching for a superior technology and ending the need for arrogant countries.

Imam Bukhari also referred to the bloody incidents in Jammu and Kashmir and said: The oppression against the Muslims in this area has struck grief into the hearts of both the Muslims and the freedom-seeking people.

'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of Lebanon's leading clergymen who will be participating in the eighth Islamic Thought Conference, spoke to our correspondent. Commenting on the need to study the thoughts and ideas of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, he said: His Eminence Imam Khomeyni was able to shake the world with the Islamic revolutionary movement and create a rule based on the Islamic system. He added: On the basis of his extremely good knowledge of Islam, his eminence the imam sent a message to Gorbachev, the leader of the Marxist movement, calling on him to think of Islam and stating that Marxism would have to be sought in the museums. Now, 1 year after this message, we all see how Imam Khomeyni's forecasts have materialized and Marxism has fallen after 70 years.

'Allamah Fadlallah also called for unity among Muslims and added: Recent developments in the world dictate that we acquaint ourselves thoroughly with Imam Khomeyni's outlook by studying his ideas and thoughts and that we ensure that our ideological and political views are based on his line, which is the establishment of the rule of the oppressed over the world.

Conference Opens 28 Jan

LD2801113990 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—The 8th Intl Islamic Thought Conference was opened here Sunday morning by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the presence of foreign and domestic guests.

This year's four-day conference held on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory is to review the thoughts of the Islamic Revolution's late leader Imam Khomeyni.

It is presided over by the head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah of Lebanon and New Delhi's Friday prayer leader Imam 'Abdallah Bukhari.

In the inaugural session slides on Imam Khomeyni's funeral ceremony were screened for the audience who burst into tears out of deep sorrow.

The conference, sponsored by IPO, was also addressed by IPO's head Ayatollah Jannati who welcomed the audience. He also praised the imam stressing that his thoughts were divinely oriented.

Lebanon's Sha'ban Arrives

LD2901113590 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Head of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban arrived here last night to attend the 8th Islamic Thought Conference and the 10 day dawn ceremonies marking the 11th victory anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Shaykh Sha'ban who is accompanied by a number of Lebanese scholars from the southern post city of Tripoli, was welcomed by some officials in charge of the conference.

The 4-day Islamic Thought Conference was opened by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday.

President Addresses Conference

LD2901151790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurating the Islamic Thought Conference in Tehran on 28 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] On the eve of the 11th dawn of the revived Islam in this Islamic country, we would like to thank our honorable guests for attending the 11th anniversary celebrations of our Islamic revolution, and we are deeply distressed that for the first time this congress is held in the absence of its first organizer and reviver of Islam and Muslims [Khomeyni]. However, we are very grateful to our brothers that in the first congress after the demise of the imam they have raised the issue of imam's thoughts. This is the most appropriate issue which our society needs after the demise of his holiness the imam. Fortunately, the imam's thoughts are available to the people all over the world. His speeches, his voice and pictures, his written works, and his deeds can be kept forever without being damaged or altered. This we owe to the blessings of our era's technology, which provides the Islamic ummah with the possibility of filing these documents and resources with trust. Naturally, the discussions of this congress will automatically reveal and clarify some points which have not been available to the public before, because it is the first time that we can discuss the imam's thoughts in an analytical manner. There are some points which only the researchers and bright people can understand, and these will be unravelled. The opening speech of the congress does not permit me to go into details. I can only raise some general matters, and each speaker who has chosen a subject can expand the subject by referring to the existing documents.

I value this congress highly because it is opening a chapter on deep understanding of a very valuable treasure of the Islamic ummah for the future, and particularly to those who are concerned that after the demise of his holiness imam this torch of guidance might gradually fade. A congress such as this serves to rekindle this torch and expand the realm of its bright coverage. [passage omitted]

One of the wishes, aspirations, and thoughts of his holiness the imam, which has been realized to a great extent, was to make the world of Islam aware of its identity, power, and resources. I am not saying in absolute terms that no one else but the imam promoted this work; there are many others who are striving for this purpose and have done so in the past. But as the imam put the idea into practice by his example, his achievement became more effective. Actions speak louder than words. The imam, through his thoughts and deeds, proved that Islam is very powerful. In general, religion is very powerful in human society; it is the strongest lever which exists among the people in order to achieve justice and fairness.

The wave of awakening we can observe in the world today is, to a large extent, due to his holiness the imam's leadership, thoughts, and deeds, and to the Islamic society which was led by his holiness the imam.

Look at Palestine which has decided to make Islam the basis of its actions. Look at Lebanon which has remained alive and resistant on Muslim shoulders. Look at the godless realm of the Marxist bloc where, after many generations of silence, hardship, and death, the Islamic forces are now demanding justice and Islam.

Look at the profound uprising in Kashmir, following decades of oppression. Look at the increasing spread of Islam in the majority of Islamic countries. Look at the Muslim people of Afghanistan, who defeated one of the most potent armies in history, forcing them to withdraw. Look at the central countries of blasphemy and arrogance, where young Muslim boys and girls have paid the price of upholding their Islamic beliefs at the cost of leaving universities, and schools, which constitute their hopes and aspirations. Look at all the might of arrogance which was placed behind a blasphemous book, and was defeated, despite slogans about freedom of speech and the pen. They are not all futile, and in any case, in the final analysis, they lead to a very clear path of the imam's thoughts and actions. [passage omitted]

The recent remarks delivered by the U.S. President and other Western leaders which received the seal of approval from the Eastern leaders, were extraordinary in that while at one point they say most shamelessly that, for example, the Lithuanians have the right to claim independence, at another point they claim that the Azerbaijanis do not. Those who are of European origin have the right to claim self-rule, independence, and secession from Marxism, but those of Asian origin do not. That is a very ugly remark. [passage omitted]

The root of the issue, however, lies in the fact that they are aware of the Muslim presence there. That is the core of the matter. They have estimated the power of Islam, which is a fact the imam wanted to prove, and he did. They recognized the threat to arrogance posed by Islam.

Today, they are aware that if anything is capable of rising in the world—where Marxism has been brought to its knees, and socialism crushed—when nationalistic thoughts confined to any section always become tarnished with personal interests, megalomania, with being placed at the disposal of arrogance, they become concerned with subjugating that mighty power and that beaming torch of guidance. That is why they end up betraying themselves in such a manner, delivering such remarks. We have always held that belief which is difficult to prove. When they refer to democracy, they mean democracy that is to their advantage. The United States does not consider democracy desirable in Arabestan because, due to oil and wealth, the freedom of the people would not be to America's advantage. A powerful Arab worker is unlikely to drill the oil and give it to them, to use in however they want.

Therefore, there should be no freedom there. Democracy has no meaning there. Democracy is of no use alongside the Panama Canal as that is a region whose value is realized by a free person, who, being aware of the U.S. dependence on that canal, would demand his rights. On the other hand, democracy, for example, in Malta, is not considered detrimental; or maybe in Greece or similar places. That they can bear. They lie when they say democracy. How is it that they are so concerned with democracy in Poland, for example, but do not care for democracy in Palestine? What is the difference? Are the people different? Are the human beings different? Are the people different? No! It is something else.

To reveal all this is a very difficult task in this transitory world where the sound of propoganda has deafened all ears. One of the imam's greatest achievements was to prove all this with much finesse. Today, people are being massacred in Iraq on a daily basis: One day it is the Kurds, another the Shiites, another the Sunni Arabs, or others. No one has the courage to breathe a word, but in a country such as Iran, a small event can assume a global proportion. [passage omitted]

One of the imam's profound thoughts—which was reflected in the slogans, words, and deeds of this revolution—was to fight injustice, bullying, and aggression. As you know, this absolute, antiarrogant aspect of our revolution is our most prominent characteristic. If one were to make exceptions in one's fight against injustice, that ideology would lose it worth. [passage omitted]

Inside the country, one of our major tasks was to oust economic and political aggressors, as part of our fight against economic arrogance, aggression, and exploitation. Abroad, our task was to grapple with all kinds of aggressors: Western and Eastern, domestic and foreign. [passage omitted]

One point about which the Imam was extremely particular, which was on his mind and which was properly achieved in practice, was to rely on public opinion and the people, to value the wishes of the people. You are all wisemen, historians, and well-read. Could you find any other place where so much value is attached to public opinion? Without any doubt I can state categorically that the Imam was the closest of leaders to the masses in our contemporary history. He was truely in the hearts of the people. He was very dear to the people of our own country, as well as those of many other countries and to the world oppressed.

There was a great deal of propaganda against the imam. As you know, those evil, slandering bigots said a great deal against him. They thought their propaganda would take effect after the imam's death. However, the events in the country after the imam passed away showed how popular the imam was and how deeply the people felt about him. If anyone finds any leader in our contemporary history for whose death more tears were shed than for the Imam, we would give them a prize. [passage omitted]

He was the leader of a revolution that was not able fulfil the people's material needs 10 years after the victory of the revolution because of war, domestic and foreign mischief, economic blockades, and revolutionary conditions in general. To be fair, after the revolution, our people have had to make do without many material comforts. We confess this. We do not claim that we can attain our goals, and at the same time, solve our material problems, most of which are dependent on the arrogant world. [passage omitted]

In any case, from a material and comfort standpoint, our people were could have been vulnerable to Western propaganda—so the Westerners hoped. They thought that after that great pillar of the revolution fell the revolution would crumble, but it did not happen. [passage omitted]

Those who claim to be supporters of democracy and of rule by the people—it is an injustice to history—those who talk about democracy, human rights, and so on, are lying. There have been more elections in the past 10 years than in all of Iran's history. There have been all kinds of elections, in all of which the majority of the people have taken part and voted. [passage omitted]

I am glad that, thanks to the imam's initiative, which was rare among world leaders, he made arrangements for the most suitable and honest person in the country, his most earnest pupil and ally and a militant scholar, most faithful to the Imam's ideologies and policies and to noble Islam and the Koran, to succeed him and take up the mantle of the jurisconsult after him. [passage omitted] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Paper Says Islam To End West's 'Hegemony'

LD2701175190 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—The growing worldwide Islamic movement, is being seen by the Western bloc as the most serious danger which spells an end to its vested hegemony, noted a Persian daily today.

In its editorial, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that political analysts in the West say that the western bloc "narrowly escaped two major dangers in the form of Nazism and Communism," and they believe that the "third and greatest danger comes from the worldwide Islamic movement" which entered the scene a decade ago under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

The analysis was "almost correct" except for minor flaws, it agreed, and said that to make it more complete it should be added that "corrupt Western imperialism will be delivered the final blow by the rapidly growing Islamic movement."

Islam, the religion of peace and justice, stressed the daily, is not like Nazism or Communism which could be easily removed from the scene. "In fact the Islamic movement substantially differs and contrasts the two," it added.

As the West very well knows both Nazism and Communism although different in outward structure from Western imperialism were products of the same corrupted Western way of thinking, which Islam is certainly not, said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

It further pointed "the Islamic movement is firmly based on the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic in Iran and the people who believe in it the world over have a divine universal view and are anti-materialist."

"This explains why the movement is gaining popularity and is spreading with greater force despite international pressures," said the daily.

The editorial found that "the reason the great satan (U.S.) and his hordes, especialy in the West, continue to shudder from Imam Khomeyni despite his demise eight months ago, is, because the great leader's ideals are being materialized even farther than the borders of the Islamic world."

In conclusion, the daily felt assured that "Islam, not the West, has defeated Communism" and called on Muslims to prove that the West will be defeated too through their tactful unity.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Delivers Policy Statement on Kashmir

BK3001165290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1430 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Policy statement read by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on the situation in "occupied Jammu and Kashmir"—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you.

These days, the situation created in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir has sent a wave of grief, sorrow, and indignation throughout Pakistan. In the past few weeks, the Kashmiri people's struggle has moved forward on a new path and has undergone a basic change. The freedom fighters—with their civil disobedience and strikes, and by sacrificing their lives—have proven to the Indian Government and the entire world that the Kashmiri people cannot be deprived of their basic rights and their right to self-determination and that they cannot be kept in shackles at a time when a wave of freedom is sweeping over the entire world.

The Indian Government has tried to suppress this movement through violence, which has resulted in the deaths of several hundred Kashmiris. Many more people have been injured and thousands are being arrested, but the intensity and universality of this movement has increased instead of lessened due to this oppression. And now the situation has reached a point where Farooq Abdullah [former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir] has had to resign, governor's rule has been imposed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and Indian forces have been called in to control this freedom movement. For the past few days, a curfew has been in force in many areas of occupied Kashmir.

The Indian Government, in an effort to hide the real reasons for this freedom movement, is leveling absolutely baseless allegations against Pakistan of interfering in occupied Kashmir. India has intensified its diplomatic activities to distract attention from its military action in occupied Kashmir and to blame Pakistan, and it is trying to make the world believe that occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India and that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of India. The Indian press, radio, television, and such are also carrying out this type of propaganda. This [word indistinct] Indian stand and its allegations against Pakistan are totally contrary to reality.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Pakistan considers it necessary to categorically reiterate its policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

During my recent visit to Delhi, Indian [words indistinct] and I made it clear to them that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory whose future is to be decided in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions providing for a free plebiscite under UN supervision. I stated in no uncertain terms that the movement of the freedom fighters in Kashmir is a demonstration of their freedom spirit, the source of which can be found in internal reasons. Leveling groundless allegations against Pakistan will neither change the realities nor solve the Kashmir problem. The only solution to this issue is that the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination be accepted and that they be given an opportunity to decide their own fate.

In Delhi, I also emphasized that Pakistan is a party to the Kashmir issue. Pakistan's position has been recognized in the relevant (?UN) resolutions and in the Simla Agreement finalized during the rule of the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The entire world knows that Pakistan and the Kashmiri people are bound together by such deep sentimental and spiritual ties that it is absolutely impossible for us not to raise our voice against the oppression of the Kashmiri people.

I assured the Indian prime minister and Indian foreign minister that Pakistan is committed to the Simla Agreement. I emphasized that Pakistan wants to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully, and it is the need of the hour that dialogue between the two governments be kept open so that wrong decisions are not made out of any misunderstanding.

Dear countrymen! Pakistan is a peaceful country; it does not want conflict or confrontation with anyone. However, at the same time, Pakistan's foreign policy has always been based on principles. We cannot deviate from principles. We cannot under any circumstances compromise on the basic rights of the Kashmiri people, especially their right to self-determination. We will remain committed to our just stand. Pakistan will not bow to any pressure or threat and will continue to support the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

The Pakistani Government is fully aware of the delicate situation. The problems facing us are very difficult, and we have to make a decision with extreme caution and reflection. We will not take any step that endangers peace in this region. However, it is not only our right but a duty as well to effectively counter India's wrong stand and its baseless allegations.

The situation in Kashmir was reviewed during meetings between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a few days ago. The cabinet discussed the issue at its meeting yesterday. The Parliament will debate this issue in the near future. On the diplomatic level, we have kept all of our diplomatic missions informed about the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and they have been instructed to brief their respective host governments at the top level on the background and realities of the Kashmir issue and to refute the baseless allegations leveled by India. Envoys stationed in Pakistan are also being constantly informed about the real situation.

Dear countrymen! The people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir issue. They support the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir with one voice. This is a matter of principles and above political expediencies. It is imperative at this time that this complete unity be not only maintained, but also strengthened. I am confident that the Pakistani Government will continue to get the full support of all quarters of the nation so that we can continue our endeavors with determination and confidence to find a peaceful solution to this issue. Our efforts, God willing, will not prove futile.

My dear countrymen! We are confident that the Kashmir issue can be settled only through understanding, dialogue, and peaceful means. All of our efforts will be directed in this direction. It is obligatory for all states of this region to maintain peace so that our people continue to pursue the path of economic prosperity.

Pakistan is going through a difficult period. A heavy responsibility rests on the government under these circumstances. We will, God willing, discharge this responsibility correctly with our people's cooperation and in accordance with their wishes. We have to act in a very honorable, sober, statesmanlike, and farsighted manner. These difficulties are temporary, and we are confident that we will, God willing, overcome them because our stand is based on principles and we are on the right side and truth is with us.

God willing, Almighty God's help will be with us.

Peace be upon you. May God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Long live Pakistan.

Khan Briefs Islamic Conference Group on Kashmir

BK2901031090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that the Kashmir issue should be viewed in its right perspective, because the struggle waged by the Kashmiri people is for their own rights. He was briefing a group of five prominent Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] figures, who called on him in Islamabad yesterday, on the current situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister explained Pakistan's stand on this issue and said that for the past 43 years India has ignored the UN resolutions on the Kashmir issue and denied the Kashmiri people their inalienable right to self-determination.

Officials Monitor Troops in Indian Kashmir

BK3101075290 Lahore THE NATION in English 31 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[By THE NATION correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—Authorities monitoring activities across the ceasefire line have categorically refuted the reports reaching from AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] that heavy concentration of Indian troops or their extraordinary movement has been noticed in the bordering area.

When contacted on Tuesday [30 January] evening, they pointed out that Indians had already deployed heavy contingent of troops across the ceasefire line and that following the renewed wave of freedom struggle in the occupied region, some more troops were deployed there.

Authorities said Pakistan believed that reason behind more troops deployment was not an indication of war between the two countries.

They made it clear that they were fully aware of the developments and movements of the Indian armed forces across the line.

Parties Condemn Indian Action Against Kashmiris

BK2801053090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The secretary general of the Azad Kashmir People's Party, Mr Javed Nazami, has condemned the Indian forces' action against Kashmiris in the occupied territory. He demanded a plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir.

The Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Punjab branch, has strongly condemned the Indian measures against the Kashmiri Muslims in occupied Kashmir. In a resolution adopted at its executive meeting in Lahore yesterday, it decided to hold meetings in all cities of the province on the 4th of next month to express solidarity with Kashmiri Muslim brethren. The meeting was presided over by the PPP Punjab president, Mr Fakr Zaman.

Kashmiri Leader Urges 'Revolutionary Government'

BK3001140890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan 30 (AFP)—The former president of Pakistan-administered Azad (free) Jammu and Kashmir State proposed Tuesday the creation of a "revolutionary government" to help the "freedom movement" in the Indian-held part of the state.

Sardar Ibrahim, the president of the Azad Kashmir branch of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party, said at a press conference here the "revolutionary government" should then form a "national council" to supervise the "jihad", or holy war being carried on by Moslem Kashmiris.

"We are ready to take any risk to liberate Indian-occupied Kashmir," said the 70-year-old leader, whose party is in opposition in Azad Kashmir.

He appealed to all Kashmiri leaders to "shun" their differences and gather on a "platform" to forge a strategy to help "our brothers" in the Indian side of the state.

Islamabad and New Delhi should allow Kashmiri leaders from both sides of the state to meet and "let them decide what could be the solution."

India has said that Pakistan is backing a violent campaign by Moslem militants to secede from India. Islamabad has denied the charge.

Mr. Ibrahim said his party on Monday organised a committee to start working on "a volunteer commando force of 100,000 men which would be sent to the cease-fire line if needed or could serve as a second line of defence."

Describing the situation in the Indian-held part of the region as "serious," he said it could trigger a war between Pakistan and India.

The two sides have fought two of their three wars since independence and partition in 1947 over the disputed state.

Mr. Ibrahim first announced his plan to raise a commando force 10 days ago. He told a public gathering in the town of Palandri, near Pakistan-held Kashmir's border with India, that he would lead a commando force "to rescue the Kashmiri brethren if India did not stop atrocities."

The reference was to an Indian police crackdown on Kashmir separatists in which more than 100 people have died since the start of January.

Mr. Ibrahim said he hoped "the governments of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir will help us for this commando force."

The Kashmiri leader said he was "in favour of accession to Pakistan".

Asked if he was against independence for the state as proposed by the president of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Amanullah Khan, who said here Monday that "an independent Kashmir is in the best interest of Pakistan," Mr. Ibrahim said Kashmir could be "a kind of Switzerland of Asia."

He appealed to Kashmiris worldwide to observe a strike on February 28 to express solidarity with the people of "Indian-occupied Kashmir."

Bomb in Muzaffarabad, Kashmir, Kills 1, Wounds 3

BK3001154990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Jan 30 (AFP) —a three-year-old girl was killed and three other people injured Tuesday in a bomb blast in the capital here of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir State, police said.

The bomb, the exact nature of which has not been determined, was placed under a hawkers cart in a bus station, the police said.

This was the first such explosion in several years in the Pakistan side of the disputed state.

The explosion came as Muslim militants are waging a violent separatist campaign in the Indian side of the state which has left 100 people dead since the start of January.

New Delhi has several times accused Islamabad of fomenting the unrest, a charge Pakistan has denied.

The prime minister of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Sardar Sikandar Hayat, Monday accused India's secret service of setting up bases on its side of the state border and sending agents across "to create a situation in which India could find a pretext to invade," as he claimed it had done three times before.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence and partition in 1947 over Kashmir.

Indefinite Curfew Follows Violence in Hyderabad

BK3001101590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The district magistrate of Hyderabad has announced that an indefinite curfew has been clamped in Phuleli market, and city police station areas of Hyderabad city subdivision with immediate effect. The decision to impose a curfew was made following incidents of violence in the city.

Gunmen Fire 'Indiscriminately'

BK3001125490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Hyderabad, Pakistan, Jan 30 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed and a dozen injured in this southern Pakistan city Tuesday [30 January] when unidentified gunmen opened fire indiscriminately, hospital sources said.

Official sources said a curfew had been imposed on three areas of the city "to prevent the further escalation of the situation."

The trouble started in the Sareghat area when two people were shot dead by unidentified gunmen apparently over a personal feud, witnesses said.

As the news of the killings spread to other areas a gun battle broke out and shifted to the Phuleli area, leaving eight people dead and a dozen injured.

Tension has escalated in the city which has witnessed bloody ethnic clashes in the past months between local Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, who migrated from India after the partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

Chief Minister of Sind Province, Syed Qaim Ali Sha, was expected to visit Hyderabad later Tuesday.

'Ethnic Violence' Reported

OW3001132090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 30 KYODO—Nine people were killed and over a dozen injured when ethnic violence erupted on Tuesday in Hyderabad, Sind Province. An indefinite curfew has been imposed on the city.

Reports from the city said rioting broke out after an incident in which two people were killed by indiscriminate firing by persons riding a motorcycle.

Native Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, migrants from India, clashed in two suburbs of the city following the shooting incident.

10 Killed, 20 Injured

BK3001151990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Violent incidents took place in Hyderabad today following the death of two persons in a sniper shooting in an area of Hyderabad city this morning. Hospital sources say that at least 10 people have been killed and 20 injured in separate incidents in the city. The Hyderabad District Administration has imposed a curfew on Phuleli market and city police station areas of Hyderabad city subdivision.

1 Bomb Explodes in Karachi, 2 in Peshawar

BK2901123890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Karachi, Jan 29 (AFP)—At least seven people were injured, three of them seriously, when a homemade bomb exploded at a bus stop in a crowded market here Monday, police said.

The device was either being carried by one of the injured or placed under carts loaded with secondhand clothing on a footpath at the Lea Market, they said.

No arrests were made, but the police were investigating the blast.

Meanwhile, two explosions rocked the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar on Monday, with one leaving three people injured in a cinema, police said.

The latest incidents brought to seven the number of explosions to hit Peshawar in the past two weeks. The leaders of the Sunni Muslim Afghan resistance alliance are based in the city.

One bomb exploded in a cinema of the Pakistan Air Force, causing panic and heavy material damage and injuring three moviegoers.

The second blast, which caused no casualties, ripped through a hotel and damaged at least two rooms.

On Sunday a bomb exploded in police headquarters in Peshawar.

The Pakistan authorities regularly blame such blasts on agents of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Security Alert Against 'Terrorist Incidents'

BK3101071290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jan 90 p 1

[By Kamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi, Jan. 30—Sudden escalation in terrorist incidents all over the country has put extra pressure on security agencies, already busy in measuring the repeated threats against the country from Indian politicians and officials.

A nation-wide alert against subversive elements had been sounded according to well informed official sources.

Three bomb explosions, two in Peshawar and one in Karachi, in the past 24 hours marked a peak in the terrorist incidents which had hit the country against late last month after a break of almost six months.

The last one month has seens bomb explosions in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], the Punjab, Sind and Baluchistan. An attempt was made to blow up the entire Cantonment area in Quetta, and the Sangi train disaster has still remained unexplained.

Bomb hoax calls and a successful planting of an explosive device in a Saudi Arabian Airlines plane has already led to a maximum security alert at the country's airports.

Security officials are also viewing with concern an increase in sniper shooting cases in Karachi and major bank dacoities [robberies] in Sind in which more than Rs 5 million had been looted.

Top security alert was sounded in Karachi for the public rally of Combined Opposition Parties [COP] last Friday after various secret reports to the intelligence agencies, hinting towards attempts to creat a civil-warlike situation in Sind following bomb explosion during or before the COP rally.

The intelligence tip was taken so seriously that the troops had to swing into action for massive security arrangements which also even involved the Army's Aviation Wing.

Top security officials are also viewing with extreme concern the reported meetings among the Indian, Soviet and Afghan intelligence officers in New Delhi, Kabul and Moscow. These three ccountries run a joint intelligence cooperation programme which works in New Delhi under the direct control of the Indian Prime Minister.

This syndicate called RAS [expansion not given] was formed about two years back with the aim of launching a massive covert operation in Sind and the NWFP.

Pakistani officials feel that the paranoia created in India by the media and official circles there about an alleged Pakistani involvement in the Kashmiri Freedom movement might provoke a desperate Indian reaction.

It has been gathered that the posible Indian reaction might come in the shape of low-key subversion operation with some major terrorist incidents in the country.

Highly-informed sources said that to meet any eventuality the Defence Forces of Pakistan have already been placed in a state of complete preparendess with a major review of blueprints of a number of contingency plans continuing in full swing.

Portfolios of Federal Ministers Reallocated

BK2801144290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that the portfolios of some federal ministers have been reallocated.

The ministers and their new portfolios are as follows:
Yusuf Raza Gilani: minister of housing and works
Mohammad Hanif Khan: minister of northern areas, states, frontier regions, and Kashmir affairs
Mir Baz Mohammad Khetran: minister of state for environment and urban affairs
Qasim Ali Shah: minister of tourism.

Bhutto on Mid-Term Poll, No-Confidence Move

BK2801103090 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has stressed that a government voted in by the people deserved to complete the tenure provided in the Constitution to implement its manifesto.

Still, in response to demands made by some Opposition leaders for mid-term polls, an offer was made by her that "if you want mid-term election, you come and talk to me and I am sure they will not." Because, she believed, the Opposition just wanted to distract "our attention."

She also said that "I have no intention of leaving in the near future." And, for this, "I am sorry to disappoint the Opposition."

The Prime Minister made these comments in a wide-ranging interview with a prominent Egyptian journalist, Miss [as published] Nufal Mustafa, on January 16. The interview was published by the widely-circulated AL-AKHBAR in a comprehensive manner.

Miss Mustafa was the first ever local or foreign journalist invited to sit during a Federal Cabinet meeting in this country. Her interview concentrated on developments since the no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister late last year, role of women in an Islamic society and problems faced by a woman Prime Minister ruling a Muslim country.

Ms Mustafa found the Prime Minister an "elegant leader" who presides government meetings in a confident and commanding manner.

Follows the complete text of the interview:

Q. Madam Prime Minister, how do you feel after the vote of 'No-Confidence' in the Parliament and is the government shaking under you? What is the reason of the resignation of your ministers....

A. I had no doubt in my mind that we would defeat the no-confidence motion as in a parliamentary democracy, a government is formed on the basis of majority, and on November 16, 1988, when we won the election, I said that Pakistan Peoples Party has been voted by the toiling masses of this country. We have the majority and we have moral, legal and constitutional right to form the government.

Many delays took place. However, it was the Pakistan Peoples Party which formed the government because we had the majority. Subsequent to that, I had reports that some members of the Opposition were trying to subvert the loyalties of some members of the National Assembly and I was simply shocked that a Provincial Government could be involved in trying to subvert the loyalties of the members of the National Assembly but I also had the faith and the confidence that the members of the National Assembly would not betray the trust of the people of Pakistan and that is why I was convinced that the no-confidence move would be defeated and that the National Assembly placed its faith in the Government, and I had said this before the no-confidence move and it was so.

I am a parliamentarian. I am a democrat and I believe that any government which has been voted in by the people of the country deserves the time according to the Constitution to fulfil its manifesto. We had made many promises to the people, they have many expectations from us and we are determined to fulfil those promises. So, the Cabinet felt that since the no-confidence move had been moved in the National Assembly, it was their moral duty to resign but I told them to continue their duties for the time being because I felt that the Cabinet reshuffle should take place at our own timing and, Inshallah [God willing], when it is appropriate, I shall indeed reshuffle the Cabinet. As far as the Opposition is concerned, their tactics are negative. Either they are trying to move the no-confidence move in the Assembly or they are trying to build an agitation on the streets. They are trying to build an agitation because they want mid-term elections. I told them why do you want to play with the lives of the innocent people if you want mid-term elections, you come and talk about it to me. I don't think mid-term elections are a solution but if this is what you want, you come and talk to me. So, they have not come to talk to me and I am sure they will not.

I tell you what they want, they want to distract our attention, they want to prevent us from performing our national duties and I have told the Cabinet that they must not be distracted by a whole series of false accusations, character assasination and abuses. I said, they must concentrate instead on development that we want to do for our people. We must concentrate on education and health, we must concentrate on unemployment, we must concentrate on establishing the rule of law, we must concentrate on giving the women a just place in society, we must concentrate on wiping out drug smuggling which we have inherited. So, there are so many things that need to be done in the country.

As far as we in the Government are concerned, we know what our goals are, our priorities are and we will not be distracted by the Opposition which indulges in abuse and character assassination. The Opposition has no policy. You ask them what their Afghanistan policy is, one will say to recognise Najib, the other will say to oppose Najib. You ask them what the economic policy is, one will come up with a most reactionary programme of all and the other one will come up with extreme reforms. They just have no programme and they only want to spoil things which the people of the country don't want.

Q. "We are not angels." What is your comment on the working after the no-confidence move? We have got various reports and what did you actually mean by these comments.

A. I don't believe that a human being can always be aware of his or her shortcomings and weaknesses and the fact that one can make a mistake and the fact that I would not want anyone in our government to be so arrogant that whatever he/she did, there will be no criticism. Criticism is necessary and that is why I would like to see the Opposition indulge in some positive criticism. With positive criticism-one can improve one's own performance and that is what I was pointing out.

We have been one year in government and we may have made mistakes but I would like the Opposition also to acknowledge that perhaps they too may have made mistakes. Each one of us can learn from mistakes, at least for the sake of Pakistan and its people and we should determine to work together in constructive cooperation or even in constructive Opposition. This is what we think and now it is up to the Opposition to respond to it. So, that is what I really meant by "we are not angels." We have learnt a lot and I think we will go on learning a lot.

In fact, for me life is a learning process. You take a decision after consulting many people. However, sometimes you have got the bad decision. So, it is important to have the power of criticism and the power to absorb criticism. In fact, even the power of the Press should be based on this. I often read the newspapers and sometime they write stories and I ask for enquiries on those. I think it is important for a democratic leader to be responsive to criticism and not to shirk it. I want to say one more thing, I don't think I have a majority. I think, the Spanish Government for the time being has the majority of one but in a democratic society, I don't try to subvert the members of the National Assembly, and you can govern even with a majority of one or two. We certainly have the majority and we hope with the passage of time we shall enhance our strength further.

Q. Don't you want to keep fighting against Opposition?

A. I don't fight with the Opposition. As I have said if they fight with me, I look the other way. As I have mentioned earlier I have told the government to let them go on shouting, you do your own job, because it is important not to be distracted. As far as the Opposition is concerned, I would like to see it develop into a viable and strong Opposition because I do think that a two or three party system lends greater strength and viability to any parliamentary form of government and certainly the tenor of the National Assembly debate could be enhanced by both the Opposition and the government to play a constructive role.

So, therefore, I think that as far as we are concerned, we would like to live with the Opposition and we would like the Opposition also to live with the government and set examples for a good functioning democracy, not just to shout at each other without substance and call each other names. This can certainly discredit politicians, discredit the whole political process and we do not want to see the political process tarnished.

Q. Question inaudible. Bhutto replying to another question. [as published]

A. I was not born with any love for politics. I came to it because of series of circumstances which took place and I remember at one time my father saying that for him politics was a passion and I remember Mrs Gandhi saying that for her it was a duty. So, I cannot say that for me there was any love for politics.

In fact, when I saw that family life would be affected, my father would be away for so many days, we would miss him and there would be threat against his life and he was imprisoned, I really did have no love or liking for politics but when the time came and when Martial Law was declared, I felt at that time every citizen had to rise to protect national interest and to protect the values which were decent and that is why I stepped into the political field. After that the people of the country had certain expectations and I felt that given their sacrifices and given their desires and aspirations, I could not let them down and that is why I devoted myself to the political field.

Of course, I entered it at a very young age and already, from 1977 to 1990, it is almost 13 years of intense political struggle, and because I began it so early, people don't really realise that so much time has passed.

I would like to guide the country towards strengthening of the constitutional government and I would like also to fulfil the basic promises we had made in our manifesto for a better life for our people but I do not see myself like Mrs Thatcher to go on and on and on. I think one must always set oneself the task, do the task and then leave for others.

Q. Do you mean that you are not completing your tenure...

A. Oh, no, no, I am sorry to disappoint my Opposition. I have no intention of leaving in the near future but because I am a young person, I am saying this in the longer perspective. I think, it is important to do your job and then also to have the courage to step aside but not in the near future.

Q. You took over in December last year and how can a young, beautiful woman like you, with a Western cultural background, living in a conservative society, tackle such problems? What in your opinion is the most serious challenge being faced by you?

A. I am very much a product of Pakistan. I did my early schooling in Pakistan and I consider myself very much part of my culture. I am proud of my culture and I am proud of my history and I think that I had certainly an advantage of studying in the universities in the West but so did the founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It, in no way, makes you a Western person when you go, as our Prophet (PBUH) [Peace be upon him] said, as far as China to seek knowledge. I believe that such remarks should not be made because it gives the impression that the East cannot produce its own leaders or the East cannot produce men and women of calibre who can make a mark on the nation's history and that it is only a Western person who can do so. I don't subscribe to that view.

Certainly one can see that there is parliamentary democracy, freedom, human rights, dignity in the West and one can admire that and want the same in one's own country but I think at the same time people, who belong to their own cultures, must be recognised as such, their contributions must be same as a consequence of their cultural backgrounds rather than other cultures. I am very grateful for the opportunity God gave me that I studied in the best universities in the world but I think it was Pakistan which was my love and my life and motivating force. Really, I am a product of Pakistani society.

Official Leaves for Paris Nuclear Plant Talks

BK3101024890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The foreign secretary has left Islamabad for Paris to hold talks with French Government leaders on bilateral, regional, and international matters. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting official sources, said that he will finalize the program of French President Mitterrand's visit to Pakistan scheduled for next month.

The foreign secretary is also expected to hold talks on the purchase of a French nuclear plant. Pakistan needs the plant to increase power generation to meet its energy requirements.

Indian Talks Reported; Troops Quit Jaffna Town

BK2801160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Muchkund Dubey, had a wide-ranging discussion with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, and senior officials in Colombo. The devolution of powers to the minority Tamils and the proposed Indo-Sri Lanka Friendship Treaty were discussed during his 3-day visit. Mr Dubey has since returned home.

Meanwhile, the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] vacated the Jaffna town today. Our correspondent reports that deinduction process in Jaffna Peninsula is going on as scheduled.

2 Tamil Representatives Resign From Parliament

BK3001120590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 30 (AFP)—Two MP's of the largest single Tamil party in the Sri Lankan Parliament have sent in their resignations as rival guerrillas moved to establish political dominance, party officials said Tuesday.

Eelam Democratic Front (EDF) MP's G. Savundrarajah and A. Gunaseelan cited personal reasons for their action, a party spokesman said adding however that the men had been threatened by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

LTTE Spokesman Yogaratnam Yogi denied the group had coerced anyone into quitting Parliament and said: "It is the first time I am hearing about this."

The EDF, the political wing of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, was until recently a close ally of the LTTE and won 13 seats in last year's elections to become the third strongest group in the House.

Parliament Secretary General Nihal Seneviratne confirmed that he had received the resignation of Mr. Savundrarajah with effect from Wednesday.

The move came as the LTTE stepped up political activity in the island's northeast. On December 19, the group formed and won official recognition for its political wing, the People's Front of Liberation Tigers.

The LTTE has battled Indian troops deployed in the island under a July 1987 bilateral pact. It has come out of the jungles and is moving into areas recently vacated by Indian troops ahead of their withdrawal by March 31.

A Muslim MP, M.H.M. Ashroff, told Parliament Tuesday that the LTTE had asked his Sri Lanka Muslim Congress not to engage in political activity in the island's east, where Tamils and Muslims live in almost equal numbers.

Mr. Yogi, who is also the LTTE's political wing general secretary, said he categorically denied the charge.

Police Seize 'Largest Haul of Narcotics'

BK2601141790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 26 (AFP)—Sri Lankan police seized Friday some 62 kilos (136 pounds) of hashish and 8.63 kilos (18.98 pounds) of cocaine fixed to the hull of a West German cargo ship at the dry dock here, officials said.

Workers at the Colombo Dry Docks Ltd., found a unusual bulge on the keel and called in the military bomb disposal squad which found it to be the largest haul of narcotics found in the country, officials said.

They said the ship, Heinrich Heine, had come to Colombo on Wednesday for dry-docking before being delivered here to a new charterer with the same crew.

Officials said investigations were continuing and no arrests had been made yet. It was the first time such a large quantity of cocaine and hashish had been found in Sri Lanka.